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European airline to launch weekly summer flights from Halifax into Glasgow and Paris; you have eight months to learn French PAGE 15

HRM enjoying large surplus

'Not bad, folks.'

Financial update suggests municipality will end year easily in the black



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

City accountants gave Halifax regional councillors a little Christmas cheer this week with news that the municipality is expected to end the fiscal year with a healthy surplus.

Council received the second-quarter financial update Tuesday, which shows a projected surplus of $6 million.

"Six million surplus at the end of second fiscal quarter is pretty good news," said Coun. Bill Karsten, chair of the audit and finance standing committee.

Manager of financial reporting Louis de Montbrun told council the savings came mostly from leaving hundreds of staff vacancies unfilled this year.

"Positions become vacant, as they are vacant, people are projecting when the expenditures will actually occur," he said, adding the vacancies resulted in about $1.4 million in additional overtime costs.

"To the end of the year we're projecting that there'll be approximately $8.1 million in savings around staff."

Another $1 million in savings will come from administrative and debt costs.

Transit is also expected to end the year with a surplus of $3.5 million. A staff report suggests $2 million will be allocated to a reserve fund for new technology upgrades, leaving $1.5 million to carry forward to 2014-15.

Mayor Mike Savage said all signs point to a city with its financial house in order.

"We're paying our bills, we're increasing our capital for operating, our debt is going down, we held the line on taxes," he said. "It's not bad, folks."

Karsten said he's impressed that services haven't suffered in spite of the penny-pinching.

"It's not unusual, even in a household, to have a surplus if you don't spend anything," he said. "It's important to realize there's a balance between us finding the surpluses through efficiencies and still being able to provide the programs and services that we need to."

Made a list and checked it twice

"We've always balanced our books, because we're legislated to do so, but it's only in these last two years ... that we see these surpluses." Coun. Bill Karsten



A HERO'S TRIBUTE

A man holds up a portrait of Nelson Mandela as he dances outside the stadium in Johannesburg where a memorial service was held Tuesday. Tens of thousands attended the service, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama. Story, page 10. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS




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Bedford

3 developments on pause until further review

Council has agreed to put three major developments in the Bedford area on hold until key studies on transit and transportation are completed.

The Community Planning and Economic Development committee made the recommendation to defer consultations on the Paper Mill Lake, Bedford Waterfront and Birch Cove Waterfront projects until the Regional Plan Review, the Five-Year Transit Review and Commuter Rail Study are complete.

The recommendation was prompted by the Bedford-Halifax Mainland North Corridor Traffic Study Report, which suggests the local roadways will be able to handle "medium to high level density development."

Coun. Tim Outhit said the report's findings are based on a shaky premise.

"(The report) hinges on several projects that are out of our control being undertaken by the province," he said, citing the Burnside Connector and Highway 113.

Outhit said the city needs to consider how it will move the additional residents along the Bedford Highway if the provincial projects don't come to fruition, and potentially adjust the size of the large developments if the three studies suggest the options are limited.

The motion calls for the three developments to be halted until the studies are completed or for two years, whichever comes first. RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



Horsing around on Halifax streets

Halifax Regional Police Const. Diane Woodworth and her police horse Sarge stop to chat near pizza corner while on patrol of the downtown on Tuesday.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

Revised regional plan passes council scrutiny

What's next. Draft version of document now off for review



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

Whatever else might be said about HRM's Regional Plan five-year review, it can't be said it wasn't extensively debated.

Halifax regional councillors wrapped up the second of two Committee of the Whole discussions on the revised municipality's master plan for land use Tuesday with a six-hour-long discussion of proposed changes — and a few proposed changes of their own.

Councillors worked through the outstanding amendments recommended by the Community Design Advisory Committee, covering such topics as transportation, integrated land use and development targets.

The final recommendation — to expand an existing policy to develop a greenbelting plan — prompted opposition from Coun. David Hendsbee, who suggested it "hamstrings" rural property owners who want to develop their land.

But senior planner Austin French said greenbelt components have both environmental and economic benefits.

"It looks at how to preserve those lands that are environmentally sensitive to avoid costly mistakes that might be involved with excessive stormwater runoff," he said as one example.

Councillors also presented their own amendments to the plan.

The most significant was Coun. Reg Rankin's proposal to introduce language requiring a "citizen-led" consultation process, rather than the standard community engagement, on solid-waste issues.

"That is what consultation is — it's not being instructed by the community, it's being invited," he said. "That should not scare us."

The clause was approved after being amended to give council final approval of any recommendations arising from the consultation.

Council also agreed to have city staff review the definitions of "urban" and "regional centre," after Coun. Linda Mosher raised concerns about the regional plan's growth targets.

"The Atlantic Superstore on Joseph Howe Drive is considered peninsula, urban centre," she said. "Directly across the street, two large residential buildings we're saying are suburban."

The plan will return to regional council for further deliberation before being presented to the public.

Lengthy talks

10

The number of hours councillors spent discussing the regional plan draft over past two weeks.



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Distinguished career. Broadcast journalist Bill Jessome dies at 88

Bill Jessome, a well-known broadcaster who never strayed far from his Nova Scotia roots, has died.

In a statement, his family says Jessome died Monday night in Halifax following a distinguished career as a journalist and television host.

Jessome was born in Sydney on Jan. 11, 1925 and grew up in the neighbourhood of Whitney Pier before serving overseas in the Italian Campaign of the Second World War.

As a journalist, Jessome worked in Boston before taking on the role as evening anchor at CJCB television in Cape Breton, which eventually became part of ATV and then CTV.

Jessome, who was also an actor, hosted the Maritime Mysteries series and for many years was the face of the annual Cape Breton broadcast of the CTV Christmas Daddies Telethon.

He also had a passion for news documentaries that explored the province's roots and authored several books on supernatural Maritime history.

Jessome was honoured this year with a lifetime achievement award from RTDNA Canada, which described him as one of the best-known local TV news anchors in Cape Breton and a founding figure of Maritime television.



Bill Jessome CTV ATLANTIC

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health. Province to invest in hospital improvements

Hospitals in Halifax, Cape Breton and the Annapolis Valley are getting some upgrades after the province announced a $2.9 million investment in scanning and monitoring equipment.

The province said they will carry 75 per cent of the cost, and the district health authorities will pay the rest.

Projects in the Halifax area include a new cystoscopy table where doctors can capture images during bladder scans at the Halifax Infirmary site of the QEII. The province will pay $830,000 of the $1.1 million total.

The Infirmary will also get new heating and cooling units with a $240,000 boost from the province, and the Dartmouth General Hospital is getting new vital signs monitoring equipment with a $655,000 investment. METRO

Timeline

The new equipment will be in place by the end of March.



Europe Airpost CEO Jean-François Dominiak speaks at Argyle Fine Art about the launch of flights into and out of Halifax International Airport on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Halifax gets a new vacation temptation

Across the pond.
European airline to launch weekly summer flights between Halifax, Glasgow, Paris

GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

Getting between Halifax and Europe will be that much easier this summer with the announcement of a new weekly flight to Glasgow and Paris starting in July.

French airline Europe Airpost will offer a series of once-a-week flights between Halifax's Stanfield International Airport, through Glasgow, to Paris's Charles de Gaulle.

"We really get two European destinations in one," said Tom Ruth, head of Halifax's airport authority. "It's going to be a great opportunity."

"Halifax-Glasgow has never been flown in the past," said Europe Airpost CEO Jean-François Dominiak on Tuesday. "It's the first time."

The nine-week trial period is scheduled to last until Aug. 29, with flights arriving into Halifax Thursday afternoon and departing the following morning.

"We are focusing on a period of the year when there is tourism, when there is a reason to fly," said Dominiak.

Additional draws include the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, France-Acadia tourism and the Nova Scotia-Scotland connection, he added.

Europe Airpost intends to operate its 128-seat Boeing 737-700 aircraft on the trans-Atlantic route.

The new service offers an opportunity for expanding Nova Scotia tourism overseas.

"We know we've got a great product but if we can't get people here then it's all for naught," said Pat Lyall, President and CEO of Destination Halifax.

"It's one thing to be successful in partnering with an air carrier," said Lyall. "But that's just the start of the challenge – and the opportunity at the same time."

"If it's successful we'll come back," said Airpost CEO Dominiak. "That's for sure."

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Rocky Jones and other rights activists honoured

Celebration. Award was renamed after the late Halifax activist and lawyer

GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

While the world bids farewell to iconic anti-apartheid activist and South African leader Nelson Mandela, Nova Scotia is paying tribute to a homegrown human-rights champion.

The late Burnley (Rocky) Jones has become one of the inaugural recipients of a human-rights accolade recently renamed in his honour.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission renamed its individual award the Dr. Burnley Allan (Rocky) Jones Human Rights Award in recognition of the celebrated lawyer and political activist.

Jones died in July. He was 71.

"Rocky gave so much of his life," said Floria Aghdamimehr, co-chair of Partners for Human Rights. "He was a steadfast promoter and civil-rights advocate."

Aghdamimehr helped to select the award recipients, who were celebrated on Tuesday at an event to mark International Human Rights Day.

The theme was "Speak Up Against Discrimination."

Tuesday's award ceremony coincided with Mandela's memorial celebrations in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Quoted

"A lot has been done but there's a whole lot more to do."
Sheri Lecker, award recipient



Sheri Lecker speaks after being one of the first to receive the Dr. Burnley Allan (Rocky) Jones Human Rights Award. JEFF HARPER/METRO



Tracey Jones Grant, daughter of the late Burnley (Rocky) Jones, speaks with some of his grandchildren by her side at the Prospect Road Community Centre on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The event in Halifax honoured Mandela with a minute of silence.

Besides Jones, homelessness activist Sheri Lecker also received the newly named human-rights award.

Lecker said she remembers hearing Mandela in-person while she was working in southern Africa during the fall of the apartheid regime.

"Personally, he was the greatest giant I'd ever heard speak," she said. "He's the biggest hero in my family."

Lecker is the executive director of Adsum for Women and Children, a non-profit organization in Halifax dedicated to helping women and youth threatened by homelessness.

She described receiving the award as humbling.

"For me it's really an affirmation that the work we do matters, that it makes a difference in people's lives," she added.

Margaret Mauger of the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre in Truro was the third award recipient.

Award winners in the youth category also recognized on Tuesday were Jessica Durling of Milford Station and Brandon Finyanos of Halifax.

Sheila Lucas of Halifax's African Nova Scotian Student Support Workers program was also recognized.

"Human rights and diversity is more than a one-day celebration," said Aghdamimehr.

"We've come a long way but we have much work to do."

Driver sought in 8th collision

Halifax Regional Police are asking for the public's help in finding a driver after a pedestrian was hit in a marked crosswalk in Bedford.

At 5 p.m. Monday, police say they responded to the collision at the intersection of the Bedford Highway and Dartmouth Road, where a 17-year-old girl crossing the highway in a marked crosswalk had been hit by a car turning left from Dartmouth Road onto the Bedford Highway.

Get in contact

Anyone with information about Monday's incident is asked to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

According to a release, police say the driver pulled over into the parking lot of the Chickenburger Restaurant and spoke with the girl. He then left the area before police arrived, heading toward Halifax.

The girl was treated at the scene by paramedics for non-life-threatening injuries. The man was driving a white pickup truck and police say he was a white man in his 20s with blond hair.

This incident is the eighth in a string of collisions between pedestrians and vehicles in crosswalks since Dec. 2. Although police have yet to confirm the details, Miranda Frison says she was the seventh person hit when she crossed Agricola Street Thursday evening. METRO

Timberlea. Boy struck by vehicle on way to school

Police say an 11-year-old boy was sent to hospital Tuesday morning after he ran to catch a school bus in Timberlea and was hit by a car.

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said they got a call about the accident near 2370 St. Margaret's Bay Rd. around 7:30 a.m.

The boy was taken to the IWK Health Centre for an assessment with non-life-threatening injuries.

RCMP say no charges are expected at this time. METRO

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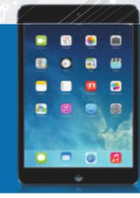
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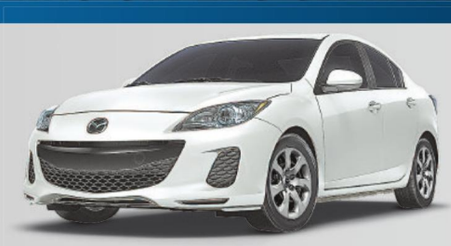
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Impasse between CBRM cops and senior officials continues

Labour dispute. Police want more financial security from employer during suspensions

There appears to be no movement in the positions of the union representing members of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service and senior police officials in an ongoing labour impasse.

The president of the union representing members of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service says her members deserve the same protection when facing criminal charges that is afforded to virtually all other police officers in Canada.

The current practice sees the officer paid for only the first 60 days of a suspension, with an extension at the discretion of the chief of police.

Joan Jessome, president of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, met this week with about 100 members of CUPE Local 1995.

About 48 officers who serve on special units have told Chief Peter McIsaac they will not participate as members of the emergency response team, the public safety unit, the training unit, and the dive team and marine unit. The decision came after Const. Ron Williams, 39, of High Street, Sydney, was convicted on charges of breach of trust and obstruction of justice.

The officers continue their regular duties.

Jessome said the officers have expressed concern that the impasse with management hasn't been resolved and the situation has decimated morale.

"We felt that in the last 10 days that there would have been some movement from the employer to treat the police officers with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality the same as police officers are treated right across the country," she said.

Mayor Cecil Clarke has ordered McIsaac to request RCMP emergency assistance as a precaution.

"I think they're certainly misleading the public on that because to be able to negotiate the chief of police's responsibilities in a collective bargaining process is not common and we have the legal coverage that's in the contract but we have nothing to do with pay continuance, so that would be new language that we would have to introduce," Jessome said.

"Our concern is that the employer may be pushing it to that stage, knowing full well there's no resolve."

CAPE BRETON POST

Public impact

"I'm asking them to consider their actions and consider the impact on the citizens."

CBRM Mayor Cecil Clarke on the demands of members of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service, who are angered by the lack of financial support given to Const. Ron Williams



Robert MacMullin, left, president of Local 1995, and Joan Jessome, president of NSGEU, spoke to reporters Tuesday about an ongoing labour dispute between officers and management. CAPE BRETON POST

Golf-course worker catches fire

A 50-year-old Sackville man was rushed to hospital Tuesday morning after he was seriously burned when the brush fire he was working with engulfed him in flames.

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said they received a call from the Lost Creek Golf Club in Beaver Bank around 8:30 a.m, where the man was working.

MacRae said the man was clearing the land by pouring accelerant on the brush and burning it, "when it engulfed in flames, which in turn caught him on fire."

Paramedics treated the man before he was taken to the QEII hospital with "serious burns," MacRae said.

The investigation has been taken over by the Department of Labour, and spokeswoman Chrissy Matheson said the man's burns are "non life-threatening."

Labour officers are now investigating the incident.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Dangerous work

Chrisy Matheson of the province's labour department says a stop-work order has been issued on burning at the golf course until "a safe work practice is submitted."

Crackdown. 14 impaired drivers charged in 1 day

RCMP in Nova Scotia were "out in force" Saturday and stopped over 10,000 drivers at 75 check points as part of National Impaired Driving Enforcement Day.

According to a release, RCMP charged 14 people across the province with impaired driving, including one person in Sackville at 4:30 p.m.

"It is a myth that impaired drivers are only behind the wheel at night," said Insp. Ray Oliver in a statement.

"Impaired drivers are on the road 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Police charged 12 drivers for being impaired by alcohol, two for drug impairment, and issued seven suspensions. METRO

Early Christmas gift

Air Canada to begin daily Toronto service from Sydney

About 100 members of Cape Breton's business community were on hand Tuesday to hear news of Air Canada's early Christmas gift to Cape Breton.

Beginning Dec. 18, the national airline will be offering a daily, non-stop flight to Canada's central hub, Toronto, from J.A. Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport.

Kevin Howlett, the airline's vice president for regional markets, made the announcement official during a luncheon sponsored by the Sydney and Area Board of Trade.

The early morning service will offer 50 seats to Toronto and make a return trip back to Cape Breton around suppertime.

"This is a very important milestone in the growth of our community and our airport," said the airport's board chair Doug Peach.

CAPE BRETON POST



The J.A. Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport CAPE BRETON POST

Released from hospital

Pedestrian struck by car in Pictou

Police are investigating after a pedestrian was struck while walking on Denoon Street in Pictou.

The 19-year-old female was hit around 5:30 p.m. Monday and was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. She was later released.

The 35-year-old male driver of the Toyota Corolla wasn't injured.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Modernization

Irving Shipbuilding contributes $28M to Halifax shipyard

Irving Shipbuilding has awarded $28.2 million in contracts to Canadian-based suppliers as part of its efforts to modernize its shipyard in Halifax to build the next fleet of navy warships.

The contracts include work for concrete foundations, floor slabs and dockwall construction equipment.

The company's announcement is part of a $300-million program to renovate the shipyard so it can begin building the Arctic offshore patrol ships in 2015.

It says it has awarded $175 million in contracts so far.

In August, Irving Shipbuilding said it was on track to have the first Arctic offshore patrol vessel built in 2018, but questions remain over the number of ships that will be built.

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From prisoner to peacemaker

Nelson Mandela. In eulogy to late leader, Obama implores people to embrace universal message of peace and justice

Amid cheers and song for the prisoner who became peacemaker, President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state Tuesday with a plea for the world to emulate Nelson Mandela, "the last great liberator of the 20th century."

Obama's eulogy was the rhetorical highlight of a memorial service in which South Africans celebrated Mandela's life with singing and dancing, often during dignitaries' speeches.

Lashing rain lent a free-wheeling aspect to the memorial, with people taking shelter in the stadium's wide hallways, where they sang anti-apartheid anthems from the 1970s and 1980s. Foul weather kept many away, and the 95,000-capacity stadium was only two-thirds full.

Obama implored people to embrace Mandela's universal message of peace and justice, comparing the South African leader to Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Lincoln. Mandela spent 27 years in prison under a racist regime, and promoted forgiveness when he was finally freed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Two girls dance in the rain outside of the memorial service for former South African president Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in Soweto, near Johannesburg, South Africa, on Tuesday. TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

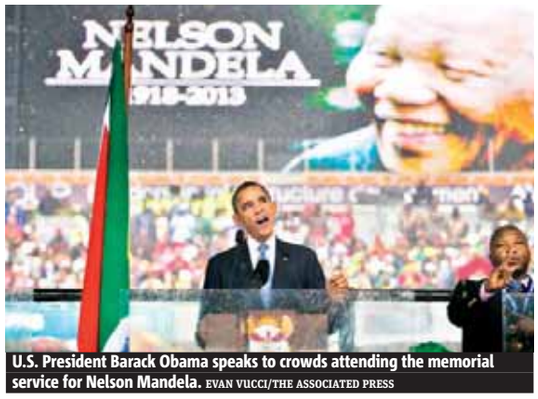
Celebration of a life

"We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again. But let me say to the young people of Africa, and young people around the world — you can make his life's work your own."

U.S. President Barack Obama



A boy at the memorial for Nelson Mandela PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to crowds attending the memorial service for Nelson Mandela. EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In attendance

In contrast to the wild applause given to Obama, South African President Jacob Zuma was booed. Many South Africans are unhappy with Zuma because of state corruption scandals, though his ruling African National Congress, once led by Mandela, remains the front-runner ahead of elections next year.

- A dazzling mix of royalty, statesmen and celebrities was in attendance.
- Among the heads of state and government were some from countries like Cuba that don't hold fully democratic elections.
- Other attending leaders criticized for their human rights records were Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema and Gambia's Yahya Jammeh.
- Actress Charlize Theron, model Naomi Campbell and singer Bono were among the celebrities paying final tribute.
- Mandela's widow, Graca Machel, and his former wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, gave each other a long hug before the ceremonies began.

Canadians pay tribute to Mandela



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, stand next to Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto Tuesday in Johannesburg, South Africa, during the memorial to Nelson Mandela. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A teeming, colourful sea of mourners danced and sang under a cold, exhilarating South African downpour Tuesday as tens of thousands of people — including political leaders from around the world — gathered to celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela.

A powerful coalition of politically diverse emissaries from across Canada was on hand for the four-hour ceremony, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and four of his predecessors: Jean Chretien, Kim Campbell, Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark.

"Today was more a celebration than a funeral," Harper said as the ceremony came to a close. "A celebration of a very long life, but a very important life."

He called Mandela "one of the giants of history."

Let it rain

"In our culture the rain is a blessing. Only great, great people are memorialized with it."

Harry Tshabalala, a driver for the justice ministry in South Africa

A steady, cold rain appeared to keep many away from the Soweto soccer stadium, where those who did brave the elements heard stirring calls to action from the likes of U.S. President Barack Obama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Chretien said the exuberance made it unlike any memorial he has seen.

"It is a great occasion of respect because he's admired by everybody," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sign of a thaw? Obama shakes hands with Cuban leader during memorial

President Barack Obama shook hands with Cuban President Raul Castro Tuesday at a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, a simple gesture that signalled possible thawing between the leaders of two Cold War foes.

The brief encounter between the U.S. and Cuban president came during a ceremony that celebrated the former South African president's legacy of reconciliation. Obama was greeting a line of world leaders attending the memorial in Johannesburg before delivering his own eulogy in which he urged a new generation to embrace Mandela's life work as their own.

Obama adviser Ben Rhodes said the handshakes with Castro and other world leaders weren't planned in advance and didn't involve any substantive discussion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands with Cuban President Raul Castro in Soweto, South Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Study: Dad's diet can play a role in fetal development

It's well-known that what a mother eats before and during pregnancy can affect fetal development, but research now suggests that a father's diet may also play a critical role in a newborn's health.

Women are advised to get sufficient amounts of vitamin B9, or folate to prevent miscarriages or birth defects, but the way that a father's diet can influence the health and development of offspring has received little attention, said Sarah Kimmins, a specialist in reproductive biology at McGill University who led a study looking at the effects of paternal folate levels.

"It can't all be on the mother," Kimmins said Tuesday from Montreal. "Our study and others are now showing that the father can be a route for the transmission of birth defects and can influence offspring health.

"Guys need to pay attention to what they're doing in terms of lifestyle choices prior to having a baby, just like the woman does."

In a study of mice published in the journal Nature Communications, researchers found that a low-folate diet in males was linked to an increased rate of birth defects among their pups, compared to the rate among pups whose fathers were fed a folate-sufficient diet.

"When we looked at the offspring, when we looked at the fetuses, we were really quite shocked that we saw the birth defects," Kimmins said Tuesday from Montreal.

"We had increased changes in the pregnancy rate, and we expected that we would affect fertility, but we didn't expect that we would have these paternal-driven birth defects in response to a folate-deficient diet."

The birth anomalies, which occurred across the litters sired by folate-deficient mice, included spinal malformations, cranio-facial defects such as a shortened jaw, underdeveloped digits and club feet.

"Those were the types of things we saw as a consequence of that diet," Kimmins said. "So they're quite striking birth defects." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Birth defects

In humans, about three per cent of children are born with a birth defect of some kind, and the cause is known for only about half of them, Kimmins said.

- In the mouse litters born to fathers with inadequate dietary folate, about four per cent had a birth anomaly.

Fredericton

Pot-smoking Mountie charged with assaulting fellow officer

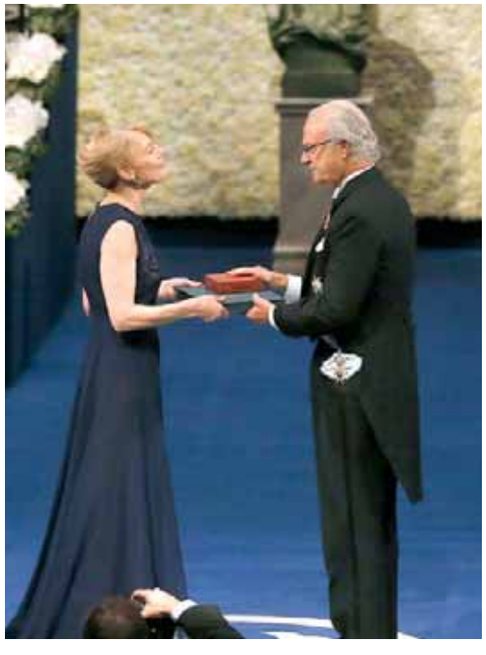
The Public Safety Department for Fredericton, N.B., says a Mountie who complained about not being able to smoke medicinal marijuana on the job was subdued with a stun gun and charged with assaulting another RCMP officer.

Alycia Morehouse, a spokeswoman for the department, says Cpl. Ron Francis is undergoing a psychiatric assessment after he was arrested last week. He is due back in provincial court on Jan. 6.

An RCMP spokeswoman says the Mounties were concerned about Francis's well-being when they found him Friday on a street in downtown Fredericton.

Morehouse says the RCMP called Fredericton police for help because the city is not within RCMP jurisdiction.

She says Francis was hit with a stun gun at one point. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alice Munro's Nobel Prize accepted by daughter Jenny

Jenny Munro, daughter of the 2013 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature Alice Munro, receives the Nobel in her place from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm Tuesday. Alice Munro, a Canadian short-story legend, is only the 13th woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in literature, and the first Canadian-based author to receive it. FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Conrad Black, left, interviews Rob Ford on his show on Vision TV. CONTRIBUTED

Ford stands by word he didn't want to say

'Beyond the pale.'
Toronto mayor doubles down on insinuation about Star reporter

A defiant Mayor Rob Ford refused Tuesday to apologize or explain televised comments in which he sparked a threat of legal action by appearing to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile.

Asked if he would say sorry to Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale or clarify the comments he made during a Vision TV interview with former media baron and convicted felon Conrad Black, Ford was emphatic.

"I stand by my words, what I said with Conrad Black," Ford told a news conference, his voice rising. "I stand by every word I said."

Black had asked Ford in the interview broadcast Monday about media intrusion on his family's privacy, and Ford singled out Dale for an incident that happened in 2012.

Quoted

"It is unpleasant when the mayor of the biggest city in Canada essentially accuses you ... (of being a) pedophile."
Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale

"Daniel Dale is in my backyard taking pictures. I have little kids. He's taking pictures of little kids," Ford told Black in the interview.

"I don't want to say that word but you start thinking what this guy is all about."

Dale said at no time did he ever take any photographs of the mayor's family, house or property — and a police investigation bore that out.

The matter was in the hands of Star lawyers, Dale said, adding he had made no decision on whether to sue.

Editor in chief Michael Cooke told radio station Newstalk 1010 Tuesday that it would be Dale's decision on whether to sue, but said the Star would back him financially.

"I can't think of a worse thing to say about a man — a man who has sex with children," Cooke said. "I can't think of a worse insult, a worse libel, a worse accusation."

Coun. Doug Ford, the mayor's defender in chief, struck a lone voice of dissent, saying his brother never suggested Dale was a pedophile.

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, who has assumed most of the mayor's powers, denounced the mayor's view.

"It's dead wrong," Kelly said.

"It's almost beyond comment. It goes beyond the pale and I think there should be an apology for that."

Kelly also suggested it was time for journalists to give Ford a wider berth.

"If the media didn't follow the mayor as closely as it has, I think it would take the oxygen out of the room," Kelly said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DAY 1 Wednesday, December 11th
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A Great Stocking Stuffer
BUY A $25 GIFT CARD
...Get the Gift Card, a 25' Measuring Tape and a $5 Bonus LumberBuck cheque
This offer is good for all 12 days

DAY 2 Thursday, December 12th
8am to 12noon (Today only)*
NO TAX
• If it's inside the store it qualifies
• If you can carry it, it qualifies
• If it meows or barks, it's free
* except sale items

DAY 3 Friday, December 13th
CONTRACTORS
FRIDAY the 13th... make it your good luck day!
FREE COFFEE OR HOT CHOCOLATE
Just for dropping in!
FREE ACE Toque just for opening an account. Join our Rewards Program. Come meet the guys and gals who will save you money in 2014.

DAY 4 Saturday, December 14th
FREE STUFF
DRYWALL $8.87 all day
Cash 'n carry
Buy 10 sheets... receive a 65' roll of Perfa Tape (Paper tape)
Buy 20 sheets... receive Drywall Screws to install
Buy 50 sheets... receive all the above plus a box of Pro Roc

DAY 5 Monday, December 16th
INSULATION
• R12 x 15
R12 x 23 29¢ sq. ft.
• R20 x 15
R20 x 23 49¢ sq. ft.
50% OFF enough 6 mil approved poly to cover your purchase!
How do we do it? Contractor size bags!

DAY 6 Tuesday, December 17th
WINDOWS
• In-stock
• Low-E / Argon gas
• Full warranty
No tax on all in-stock All Weather Windows
NO TAX
FREE buy 4 or more windows and receive a 6" x 75' roll of window flashing

DAY 7 Wednesday, December 18th
FLOORING
New In Stock LAMINATE FLOORING
8 mil and 12 mil... 15% OFF
• Engineered • Hardwood
• Tile • Vinyl
• Ceramic • Area rugs
If it goes on a floor...it's on sale!

DAY 8 Thursday, December 19th
25% OFF ACE or Clark+Kensington PAINT
BONUS with any paint purchase
25% OFF any paint accessory
• Brushes • Drop Cloths
• Rollers • Tarps
• Scrapers • Caulking & Fillers

DAY 9 Friday, December 20th
MOULDING
2-3/4" PRIMED COLONIAL CASING
38¢ lin. ft. 7' @ $2.66 pc. 14' @ $5.32 pc.
3-7/8" PRIMED COLONIAL BASEBOARD
48¢ lin. ft. 14' @ $6.72 pc.
3-1/2 COLONIAL CASING
5" COLONIAL BASE
YOUR CHOICE 58¢ lin. ft.
THE NEWEST STYLE MOULDING FOR 2014

DAY 10 Saturday, December 21st
GET READY FOR WINTER
SNOW TOOLS 15% OFF
WINDSHIELD WASHER $2.88
SALT
TRACTION SAND 22kg
EASTERN EMBER PELLETS 40lb bag
ASPEN LOGS (PELLETS) 12 pk $5.09
No delivery, cash 'n carry only at these prices!

DAY 11 Monday, December 23rd
LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS
DRILL AND IMPACT DRILL SET #7827581 $169.00 set
SLIDING COMPACT MITRE SAW With laser #8380 $169.00 inc. FREE 10" Carbide Blade
6-PIECE TOOL KIT $19.88 set
HOODIE AND TOQUE $29.88 set
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DAY 12 Tuesday, December 24th
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Ranger Joe Amarualik drives his snowmobile on the ice during a Canadian Ranger sovereignty patrol near Eureka, on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, in 2007. Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway have all been trying to assert jurisdiction over parts of the Arctic, which is believed to hold up to a quarter of the planet's undiscovered oil and gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Can we claim Santa's home? Putin says no

Sabre rattling. Russia counters Canada's bid to expand Arctic turf with military directive

Russian President Vladimir Putin is pawing the snow over Canada's claim to the North Pole.

A day after Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Canada is extending its Arctic territorial claim beyond the area mapped by federal scientists, Putin responded Tuesday with a highly visible message to the Russian military.

"I would like you to devote special attention to deploying infrastructure and military units in the Arctic," Putin was quoted saying in televised comments at a meeting of the Defence Ministry Board in Moscow.

The country requires "every lever for the protection of its security and national interests there," Putin said for the cameras.

Baird held a news conference Monday on Parliament Hill where he asserted the Arctic claim will include the North Pole, although Canada has yet to do the mapping work to support its bid.

Russia is already drilling for oil in the high Arctic, and in 2007 a Russian team planted the country's flag on the sea floor at the magnetic pole.

Baird's spokesman Rick Roth responded to Putin's latest Arctic chest-thumping by stating Canada will defend its sovereignty in the region "in adherence to international law, and through science-based measures."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hot property

1.2M

Last week, Canada made a formal scientific submission to the United Nations claiming 1.2 million square kilometres of seabed under the Atlantic, as well as a preliminary claim in the Arctic Ocean.

San Francisco

13 plead guilty in PayPal attack

Thirteen people have pleaded guilty to helping briefly disable PayPal as part of a protest that authorities say was organized by the hacking group Anonymous.

Ten of the defendants pleaded guilty to felony and misdemeanour charges of intentionally damaging a protected computer. If they stay out of legal trouble, the U.S. Department of Justice plans to drop the felony charges. Three other defendants pleaded guilty to misdemeanour charges in San Jose federal court and face similar sentences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uruguay. Senate expected to approve weed market

Uruguay's Senate was finishing its final debate Tuesday before voting on an audacious and risky plan to create the world's first national marijuana market, with the state regulating the entire process of growing, selling and using a drug that is illegal almost everywhere else.

Approval late Tuesday was all but assured, given the ruling coalition's majority and support from President Jose Mujica, who says he's convinced the global drug war is a failure and that state regulations can do a better job than weapons to contain addictions and defeat a thriving illegal market.

Former Health Minister Alfredo Solari, a Colorado Party senator, warned that children and adolescents will more easily get their hands on pot, and that "the effects of this policy on public health will be terrible."

But Sen. Roberto Conde, a former deputy foreign minister with the ruling Broad Front, said marijuana "is already established in Uruguay. It's a drug that is already seen as very low risk and enormously easy to get." Constanza Moreira, a fellow Broad Front senator, said, "This law will return us to the vanguard of Latin America."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Namaste: Lululemon Athletica Inc. founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chair of the company after saying "some women's bodies" don't work for Luon yoga pants, which were recalled due to sheerness issues. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Lululemon founder out after comments on women's bodies

Stretching in new directions.
Vancouver-based company names a new CEO as it moves on from its annus horribilis

Lululemon Athletica named a new chief executive Tuesday and announced founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman, as the athletic clothing retailer looked to put a difficult 2013 behind it.

The changes mark the end of the five years of dramatic growth of the Vancouver-based company with Wilson and outgoing CEO Christine Day at the helm.

The company said Tuesday that Laurent Potdevin will take over as chief executive next month. Potdevin, who began his career at luxury retailer LVMH, most recently served as president of Toms Shoes.

Day has overseen the company's expansion beyond yoga clothes to all manner of workout gear, more than tripling the company's share value since she took over as chief executive in 2008.

But Lululemon has struggled this year with its first major stumble when it pulled its black Luon pants from store shelves after customer complaints that the pants were too sheer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sheer madness

"Quite frankly, some women's bodies just actually don't work for it."

Lululemon founder Chip Wilson, in an interview last month, ignited a storm of criticism by suggesting to Bloomberg TV that production issues may not be the only issue regarding the sheerness of its Luon yoga pants.

Got the maximum

Exec jailed after selling faulty breast implants

A French businessman who sold tens of thousands of breast implants filled with industrial-grade silicone and prone to leaks was convicted of fraud on Tuesday and sentenced to the maximum four years in prison.

Jean-Claude Mas' lawyer promised to appeal immediately.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Barra

GM names first woman to head a U.S. car company



Mary Barra
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

General Motors picked Mary Barra, its product development chief and a 33-year company veteran, as its next CEO. She will become the first female head of a major U.S. car company. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
94.31¢ (+ 0.28¢)

TSX
13,324.01 (+11.23)

OIL
$98.51 US (+$1.17)

GOLD
$1,261.10 US (+$26.90)

Natural gas: $4.25 US (+$0.01)
Dow Jones: 15,973.13 (-52.40)



HYPNAGOGIA SOUNDS LIKE A SNOOZE



JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

OK, it's time to get up close and personal.

Do you take naps?

I'm not sure what prompted that question, but it occurred to me during a session in the "thinking chair" in my office.

Some of my best ideas happen in the thinking chair, usually just before someone starts snoring and the walls start to reverberate. If I ever find out who's doing it…

Turns out I'm not the only one who becomes inspired in that twilight zone between sleeping and waking, that place where you're starting to dream but haven't fallen asleep yet.

That state, which is called hypnagogia, was visited frequently by Edison, Einstein, Aristotle and Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali, he of the landscapes featuring melting clocks. Hypnagogic, dude.

So, napping is not a sign of increasing senility, but a powerful creative tool. Hence the term "power nap." Superman probably knocks off a few power zzzzs when he's all cosy in the Fortress of Solitude. Nobody calls Superman senile, although there is that giant 's' on his chest.

There is some research to suggest power naps help prevent heart attacks, although that could be because people who engage in cardiovascular exercise have a tendency to get calm and drowsy after their workout. The jury is still out … like a light.

If you've tried power napping and only end up feeling groggy afterwards, it's probably because you're not doing it right. I know, I know, what's to learn? Close your eyes, count to 10 … how long was I out?

If you go past Hypnagogia Land into the realms of deeper sleep lasting longer than 20 minutes, that's not good, as you could end up with sleep inertia, which makes you groggy and grumpy.

Dali, he of the hypnagogic melting clocks, had a trick that prevented him from succumbing to the rapture of the depths. He would hold a key in his right hand, which he would then dangle over a plate. As soon as he started to heed the call of the Sandman, the key would drop out of his hand and clatter on the plate. Then he'd be up, refreshed, and back to his melting clocks. He called it "just the necessary amount of repose."

If you're still worried what everyone will think if you catnap at the controls of your 747, remember that entire cultures are based on the nap, only they call it the siesta, which sounds poetic, lyrical. People who take siestas never drool, for example.

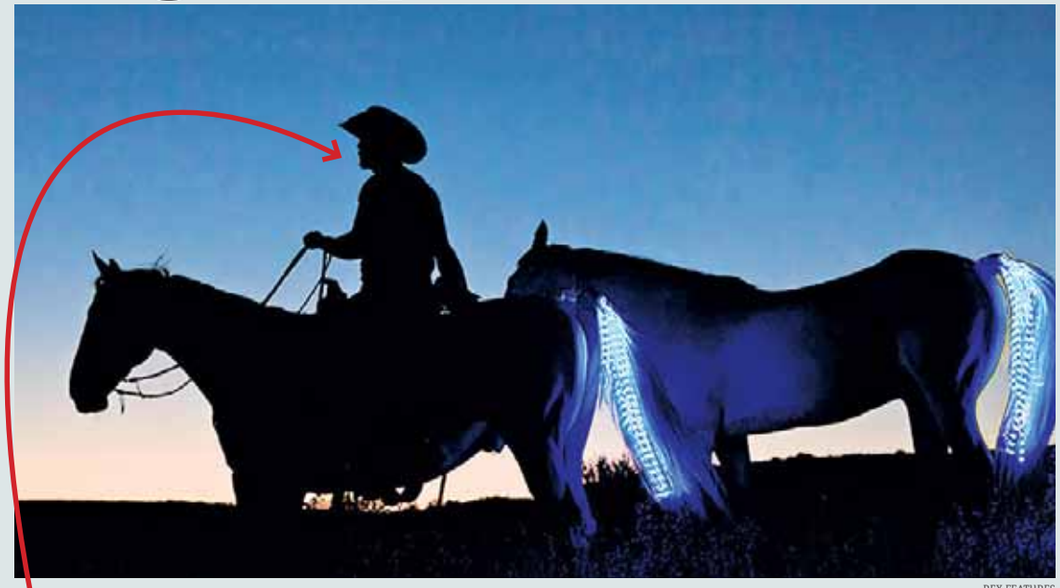
The siesta is associated with the twin drivers of leisurely noonday meals and warm summer afternoons characteristic of Mediterranean climates, but you can try it here too, where it's all fast food and frost.

And if you start to do your best work immediately after a power nap, remember that it worked for Edison and Einstein. OK, maybe you have to try a little harder.

Five more minutes?

ZOOM

It lights up a horse's behind



REX FEATURES

Safety first with glitzy horse lights

A California-based firm has invented the first safety lighting for horses. Tail Lights are LED lights that drape through a horse's tail to provide a safe way to warn motorists of a horse and its rider. They are the brainchild of Sami Gros, who developed the idea after her friend was almost killed when a car struck her horse. **METRO**

Founder says



"It all began following a life-threatening accident. Despite using reflective gear, the horse ridden by my friend was hit from behind by a car as we were approaching the barn around dusk."

Sami Gros, founder of Tail Lights

'An attractive visual presence on the road'

The system consists of six water-resistant LED strips in the shape of a horse's tail. The LED strands are attached to the base of the tail by a specially designed neoprene tail wrap. According to its designers, the lights do not emit heat, are water resistant and allow for free movement of the tail — and make "an attractive visual presence on the road." **METRO**



A Kickstarter campaign was launched to raise the $100,000 needed to make the innovation widely available.

COURTESY TAIL-LIGHTS.COM

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online



COURTESY BOOMF

As the holiday shopping season descends on us all, Metro has a few ideas on what to get that person in your life who lives on social media. Here are some sites that will take your Instagram photos and turn them into Insta-gifts.

Printstagram (printstagr.am)
A one-stop shop for turning your favourite social media photos into everything from cards, to posters or stickers.

Stitchtagram (stitchtagram.com):
Based in Washington, D.C., this company lets you design pillows, bags and purses using your Instagram snapshots.

Boomf (boomf.com):
This site will literally print Instagram photos onto bite-sized marshmallows (pictured) and deliver them to your door. What else would you expect from a company whose tagline is "turn your memories into magical morsels?"

Twitter

@metropicks asked: "We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," Barack Obama said at Mandela's memorial. Who do you think will be the next Mandela?

@WTarcisio: No one will replace Nelson Mandela and also Michael Jackson, Ayrton Senna and Elvis Plesley.

@MA6hp: According to @kanyewest he is new #Mandela.

@flarkcon: That's ironic

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Forget Middle-earth, movies are overrun with strange elves

New movies. From the North Pole to Nazi Germany to stories that go nowhere, the elfin character gets lots of play on screen



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

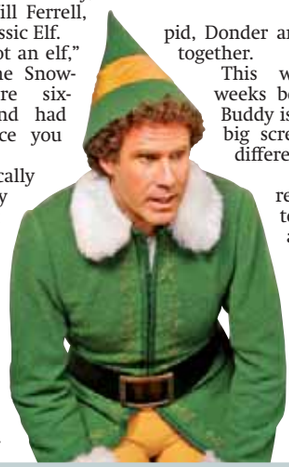
When we think of elves at this time of year visions of Santa's helpers fill our heads.

The cute, industrious and diminutive creatures from the North Pole can be seen everywhere in December in Christmas TV specials, greeting cards and movies like Arthur Christmas and Santa Claus: The Movie.

One of the most famous movie elves is Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, in the neoclassic Elf.

"You're not an elf," says Leon the Snowman. "You're six-foot-three and had a beard since you were 15."

So technically he's not really an elf, just a human raised by elves, but he has more Christmas spirit than Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen put together.



Will Ferrell became a neoclassic elf in the Christmas movie Elf. CONTRIBUTED

This weekend, just weeks before Dec. 25, Buddy is joined on the big screen by a very different kind of elf.

"She's slightly reckless and totally ruthless and doesn't hesitate to kill."

That's how Evangeline Lilly describes the 600-year-old "she-elf" Tauriel from this weekend's The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.



Evangeline Lilly stars in The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. CONTRIBUTED

Turn the page for more coverage of The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

The bow-and-arrow wielding character is new to the J.R.R. Tolkien movie franchise, created by director Peter Jackson and his co-writers Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens.

"She's our redhead," says Boyens.

"We created her for that reason. To bring that energy into the film, that feminine energy. We believe it's completely within the spirit of Tolkien."

Buddy and Tauriel are just two of the many kinds of movie elves.

Elves (or Gelfling as they're called in the flick), are the main focus of the Jim Henson film The Dark Crystal.

Dobby the House Elf was voted the No. 1 favourite magical creature in the Harry Potter series by NextMovie.com and Thor: The Dark World featured Dark Elves, an ancient race of dangerous beings whose spaceships are powered by black holes.

The cheese-ball B-movie Elves features the tag line, "They're Not Working for Santa ... Anymore."

Well, if not Santa, then who?

Nazis, that's who.

Finally Tom Cruise consorted with an elf named Honeythorn Gump in Legend, the Ridley Scott film The New York Times called "a slapdash amalgam of Old Testament, King Arthur, The Lord of the Rings and any number of comic books."

Swiss actor David Bennett played the feisty elfin sidekick who not only is the protector of the world's last two unicorns but, along with elves Screwball, Brown Tom and Oona, helps Cruise's character save the world from the nasty Lord of Darkness (Tim Curry).

'We're being pretty generous with one year'



Peter Jackson. MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interview. Director of The Hobbit trilogy understands why fans might be upset by this edition's cliffhanger but points to others who have done worse



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

While the first Hobbit film turned in huge business at the box office, Peter Jackson faced some harsh criticism from fans and reviewers with his return to Middle-earth. And as much as he would have liked to course-correct, there wasn't much wiggle room going into the second installment.

"There wasn't really any ability to respond too much because we had already shot everything pretty much, apart from the 10 weeks of pick-ups we did this year, which half of that was the third movie," he says.

"By the time we were done with pick-ups I was just getting in my groove."

Some things have changed this year, though. From Jackson and the film company.

There's less chest-pumping about high frame rates — in fact Jackson and company apparently aren't eager to bring up 48 frames per second this time around, though it will be offered at select screenings.

And the story is bigger, with more interweaving plot threads. But with the latest installment, Jackson is well aware some viewers might find its cliffhanger ending a bit unsatisfying, with a full year to wait for the conclusion.

"We did have a discussion about it. It was just a chance that was very rare where you do films back to back, three films back-to-back, to be able to end on a cliffhanger," he says.

"I remember when I was 17, 19 years old, I remember the big Empire Strikes Back cliffhanger. It was, like, three years before the next one came out. We're being pretty generous with one year."

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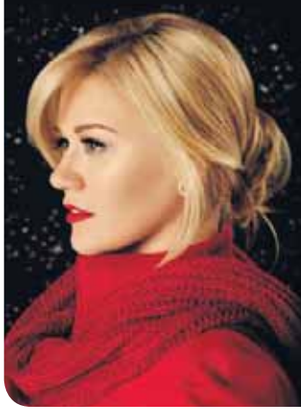
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‘I feel like I’m the cheat at the table, really’


Benedict Cumberbatch GETTY IMAGES

Absentee actor. Benedict Cumberbatch is in the new Hobbit movie but barely knew his co-stars

Most actors involved in the Hobbit series of films talk about the joys of becoming de facto residents of New Zealand, moving to the lower hemisphere to film three movies back-to-back-to-back. But Benedict Cumberbatch, who performs as the greedy dragon Smaug (and did some motion-capture work as the Necromancer), was there for barely more than a week.

“That was the biggest con of doing this. Hearing all these stories of the live action harrowing-ness, and all the amazing work these people put in, I did my work in about eight days,” Cumberbatch says. “I feel like I’m the cheat at the table really.”

On top of that, while the bulk of his screen time is spent sparring with his Sherlock co-star, Martin Freeman, as the titular hobbit, he and Freeman weren’t actually present for any of each others performances.

“I didn’t spend any sort of live time with Martin, which was sad,” he says. “We know each other quite well so we kind of second-guessed in a weird way our performances to some degree, I guess. It’s a very different dynamic, very different. (On ‘Sherlock’) I’m in the room with him and I’m not the flying, psychotic napalm machine. I could be dismissive of him as Dr. Watson as my Sherlock, but they’re friends.

“While he and Freeman are old pals, there was a whole cast of co-stars he missed out on befriending.

“Sadly, I met hardly any of the cast,” he says. “Richard (Armitage) and I met once. I crossed over with people as they were coming back to do I think their third stint, I think. I’ve had scenes with people I haven’t even met yet. So that is bizarre.”

Also bizarre? Embodying a dragon.

“It’s only going to be an impression of something that’s a serpentine reptile who can breathe fire and fly because I’m a limited biped mammal, sorry about that,” he jokes. NED EHRBAR/MWN



Luke Evans no longer waiting in the wings

New movie. His work as Bard the Bowman was shot ages ago but it’s just finally coming to audiences with the latest installment of The Hobbit


NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Last year, as the first Hobbit installment raked in more than $1 billion worldwide, Welsh actor Luke Evans sat quietly by as Martin Freeman, Sir Ian McKellen and Richard Armitage got all the attention, since his work as Bard the Bowman wouldn’t turn up until the second film, The Desolation of Smaug.

Well, Evans has to wait no longer.

Unboxing

“I have a Lego character, that’s quite cool.”

Luke Evans
Talking about getting an action figure in his image

After three Lord of the Rings films and the first Hobbit, it’s kind of a foregone conclusion that New Zealand is a beautiful place, isn’t it?
Yeah, I think we need to just give up now. We all know this. Maybe we should just say, ‘Actually, it’s a s—hole,’ (laughs). No, it’s great. The Kiwis, they’re very proud of their country and how they’ve preserved it in a really beautiful way, especially the South Island. It’s so unspoiled.

You filmed your part before even the first Hobbit had come out. What was it like last year watching the reactions and box office come in for that one, knowing that to audiences you still weren’t quite a part of it?
It was enjoyable, but it was also a bit of, ‘Aw, shame I’m not part of this,’ you know? But I’ve been very patient, I’ve bided my time, and now my turn has come and now I’m in the story and I’m not going anywhere now, I’m here till the end. But it was exciting to watch.

Do you have an action figure yet?
I have a Lego character, that’s quite cool. It’s not so much action, he can’t bend his arms, but he looks quite cool. And he has a Lego Laketown as well, and a little plastic bow and arrow. And he’s got a really angry face.

So you didn’t have any input on the Lego face?
No, no, obviously not. But it’s great. I mean, it’s a lovely thing, isn’t it? That’s the fun thing about being part of something as big as The Hobbit, things like that happen. Apparently Denny’s, the cafe, have a whole Laketown menu. They have, like, the Bard’s Brew and the Bowman’s Pumpkin Pie. I’m tempted to go down there and order it all and just sit there munching through a Denny’s breakfast.

I wouldn’t recommend that, actually.
No, no, of course.


Luke Evans finally shows up in The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. CONTRIBUTED



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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Harry and hook-up hang out in Hell's Kitchen

Maybe Harry Styles and Kendall Jenner were looking for an under-the-radar place to hang out, but a gay bar in New York City clearly wasn't it. After Styles' Saturday Night Live performance with One Direction, he and his rumoured girlfriend had a busy night of party-hopping, stopping for a bit at Hell's Kitchen gay bar Therapy, according to E! News. A source says Styles and Jenner "were having a great time" and "for sure looked like they were a couple. They had a blast." The fact that Styles is 19 and Jenner is 18 — and the drinking age in the U.S. is 21 — didn't seem to factor into their having a blast.



Harry Styles. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Katy Perry

Perry pans parents' presidential politics

Katy Perry tries to not let politics come between her and her conservative parents — except when an invitation to Barack Obama's inauguration is involved. "My parents are Republicans, and I'm not," she tells Marie Claire. "They didn't vote for Obama, but when I was asked to sing at the inauguration, they were like, 'We can come.' And I was like, No, you can't. I love you so much, but that — on principle.' They understood, but I was like, 'How dare you?' in a way."



Bradley Cooper

Suki stays (sort of) silent about celeb squeeze

Bradley Cooper and girlfriend Suki Waterhouse made their first official appearance together as a couple at the American Hustle premiere party in New York this weekend, according to TMZ.

While they've been spotted out and about before, both have worked hard to keep mum about the relationship "because it's boring," Waterhouse recently told Elle U.K. "I'm not one of those girls who goes on about their boyfriends. I do think whatever I say will sound weird. But the truth is, if I start talking about him, I probably won't be able to stop."

B-lister brings beau to Bel Air

It looks like Courteney Cox may have found some new romance for the holidays with Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid, according to Life & Style. McDaid accompanied Cox to Jennifer Aniston's Bel Air holiday party in November and wasn't shy about her feelings.

"Courteney definitely looked like she was on a date," a source says. "They were holding hands during the party." Cox's ex-husband, David Arquette, let slip during a chat with Howard Stern on Oct. 31 that she was dating someone new after splitting from Cougar Town co-star Brian Van Holt. "She's with someone who loves and cares for her," Arquette said. "That's all I care about."



Courteney Cox



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You'll love this Cancun resort to the Moon and back

Sun and fun. Winter's icy grip is upon us, might we suggest beaches and bubbly?

GINA ANGELOTTI
Metro World News in New York



Enjoy a cocktail by one of the resort's beautiful pools. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/MOON RESORT



Bored of the beach? Try your hand at the golf course.

Moon Palace Cancun is a sprawling all-inclusive waterfront resort minutes from Cancun International Airport. Divided into three sections — Sunrise, Nizuc and Grand — each has its own character, landscape, demographic, restaurants and amenities. Once you put on a guest bracelet at check-in, you're not only given access to these "phases," which while walkable are connected by a lobby-to-lobby bus service, but you're also allowed to visit other Palace properties in the region. With seemingly limitless entertainment and dining options, the real party in Cancun happens here.

As the bellman explained the extensive features of our deluxe room at Grand, it became apparent that this resort was built with newlyweds in mind. With an in-room jacuzzi — standard for all suites — and a furnished patio, our accommodations were quite large for a single person.

But it wasn't long before we took advantage of the cavernous marble shower, swim-suited up and set out for sunshine. While climbing stairs that led to the nearest pool, we almost stepped on one of dozens of sunbathing iguanas that would appear over three days.

Outstretched in a chaise under the shade of palm fronds and umbrellas, the heat was welcome. There were more chairs embedded in a shallow shelf of water along the pool's perimeter, and these prime seats were often occupied.

But when the water gets to be too much, guests will be happy to know that Moon Palace has a spa, two salons and daily yoga in an on-site meditation garden.

Even though it briefly rained each day, the side effects were positive: The loudest guests — mostly families — abandoned the deck, and the ocean breeze rolled in to whip our paperbacks' pages and the napkins under our cocktails du jour.

Wash, rinse, repeat: We pool-hopped like this for the rest of the trip.

One afternoon at the Sunrise pool's coal-fired pizza oven, two newlyweds chit-chatted with other guests in line.

An older woman advised the couple, "It only gets better." Smiling, the husband of the pair responded: "We've been here three days and each one has gotten better."

Just beyond these pools is the quieter beachfront. Although a hefty bit of seaweed clutters the otherwise sea glass-green waters — not on par with the Mayan Riviera's reputation for pristine beaches — the sandbars are the glorious temperature of bathwater and the sand itself is the softest we've bared our feet for.

Each time we walked the shoreline between the phases, we shuffled through heart after heart etched in the sand. We eventually caved and drew one, too.

"Have you ever been kissed by a Mexican?" asked Miguel, a trainer at Moon Palace's own dolphinarium, where guests get a show and a wet smooch from one of eight bottlenose dolphins. A professional photographer on hand means that guests take home a souvenir portrait that's a step up from a smartphone selfie.

On the last evening of the trip, we had an unexpectedly exceptional meal at Los Tacos.

At the poolside snack bar, surrounded by a ring of romantic canopied beds and mangroves, a flirtatious waiter brought to our table a heaping plate of nachos that we didn't actually order. But it didn't matter, because the tortilla chips swimming in cheese, grilled pork and pineapples were as gratifying as the tumbler of Dos Equis we washed them down with.

For the kids

- While there are hoards of honeymooners — Moon Palace hosts more than a thousand weddings annually — the resort is actually bursting at the seams with families. The appeal is as strong for the under-18 set as it is for grown-ups. Parents relax poolside while their kids roam independently with minimal risk, and vice-versa. Plus, the all-inclusive element means that, cost-wise, parents don't need to utter the dreaded word "no" very often. Kids seem elated; adults look relieved.



On a sunny day, when the Grand Canal is a sparkling ribbon of aquamarine embossed with boats ancient and modern, Venice can steal your heart. And it can do a number on your wallet, too. Knocking back a Bellini at the Hemingway haunt of Harry's Bar will cost you. And taking a gondola ride? You don't want to know how much. But here are five things to do in La Serenissima — as the serene city is sometimes called — that don't cost a dime, or a pound of flesh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Free things in Venice



The Square

Centrally located, St. Mark's Square — Piazza San Marco — is lined with shops and restaurants and is a must-see. Go early or late to avoid the worst crowds. You can go into the church for free, although there are fees to see the museum and other areas. Completely free: window shopping, people-watching and posing for selfies.



The Bridges

Venice is brimming with bridges. The Rialto, a stone arch lined with shops that crosses the Grand Canal at about the halfway point, is the most famous. The Academy Bridge — Ponte dell' Accademia — between the Campo di San Vidal and Campo della Carita, also offers great views of the Grand Canal.



The Ghetto

The word ghetto originated in Venice where a gated part of the city was designated as the Jewish quarter from the 16th century until 1797. A commonly cited explanation is that the word stems from an Italian word "getto" associated with an old foundry in the area. A bas relief sculpture by Arbit Blatas in the main square — Campo di Ghetto Nuovo in the Cannaregio district — commemorates the deaths of Venetian Jews killed in the Second World War.



The Basilica

The Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute — St. Mary of Health — was built after an outbreak of the plague in 1630. Its ornate dome is a feature of the city skyline. Works inside include art by Tintoretto and Titian. Located in the Dorsoduro district, across the Grand Canal from St. Mark's; take the No. 1 water bus to the Salute stop. Open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. most days.



The Music Museum

Classical music enthusiasts will enjoy the Museum of Music — Museo della Musica — a collection of instruments from the 17th to 19th centuries. The museum is in the Church of St. Maurizio, about a 15-minute walk from St. Mark's Square, and celebrates Venice's history as a centre of instrument making. Open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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Metro's travel myth busting

Travel myths are like urban legends — there are lots of them and nobody really knows how they got started. Luckily, Metro's resident travel expert Loren Christie is here to set the record straight.



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Want to fly first class? Just ask!



Myth: Ask nicely and you'll get upgraded to first class.

Reality: Sorry, you need more than manners to get seated with the pretty people. When it comes to upgrades, loyalty pays. With cost structures and loyalty programs in place, airlines reserve upgrades to first class to a very select few, such as passengers cashing in program points and higher-tier frequent fliers.



Travel deal Tuesdays

Myth: Tuesdays are the best days to buy airfare.

Reality: Historically, many airlines released fare sales on Tuesdays, which has led to this best day to buy myth, but the Internet jolted this pattern. When you fly is far more important than when you buy. Try flexible-dates shopping to determine when you can get the very best deal and go at mid-day and other off-peak business travel hours.

Calm down, it's just a card!

Myth: Your hotel key card can be used to steal your identity.

Reality: A hotel key card never has your personal information, such as your name, photo, or credit card number, attached to it. Even after you've checked out of the hotel, nobody can use it to pull any personal data. If you lose your hotel key card during your stay, you're simply locked out of your room. The misplaced card is simply deactivated and becomes useless.





Being late to the party pays

Myth: Booking at the last minute gets you the best deals.

Reality: More often than not, travellers will pay a premium if they choose to book an airline ticket at the very last minute. You should try to book your airfare at least 21 days in advance. For hotels, you could get a good deal last minute but it is all about the supply and demand; there is no secret formula. There are some deals to be had by booking a last minute, prepackaged vacation, as long as you are flexible on the actual destination.

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Lose the bread, add chicken but keep all the delicious flavours of a BLT



ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

No, it's not a sandwich but a delicious salad with all the ingredients except for the bread. I don't often use iceberg lettuce, but it goes so well in this salad.

You can prepare the salad early in the day and dress just before serving.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.

2. Combine the milk and egg in one bowl. Combine the panko, Parmesan, and salt and pepper in another bowl.

3. Dip the chicken breast in the egg mixture, then the panko mixture.

4. Heat a small skillet until hot. Add the oil and sauté the chicken breast just until browned on both sides, about 2 minutes per side. Place in a 400 F oven and bake for 10 minutes, until the temperature reaches 165 F or until it's no longer pink. Let cool, then slice thinly.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup panko crumbs or unseasoned dry breadcrumbs
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 8 oz boneless chicken breast
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 oz prosciutto
- 1 large iceberg lettuce cut into 6 wedges
- 1/2 cup feta cheese
- 1/2 cup diced tomatoes
- 2/3 cup light ranch dressing (store bought)

Nutritional information

Per serving

- **Calories.** 220
- **Carbohydrates.** 11.5 g
- **Fibre.** 0.7 g
- **Protein.** 17.3 g
- **Total fat.** 10 g
- **Saturated fat.** 3.5 g
- **Cholesterol.** 78 mg

5. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, cook the prosciutto until crisp (about 5 minutes). Dice and sprinkle over the lettuce wedges and sprinkle with the crumbled feta and tomatoes. Add chicken.

6. Pour the dressing over top.

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

BLT Salad



This recipe serves six. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Sapphire In a Pear Tree

This drink, inspired by the 12 Days of Christmas, is perfect for holiday parties.

- 1 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire gin
- 1/2 oz Disaronno amaretto
- 2 oz pear nectar
- 3/4 oz fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 oz maple syrup
- 1 rosemary sprig and cranberries for garnish

Starting from bottom of rosemary sprig, remove approximately two thirds of leaves. Crush leaves to release aroma. Add, along with all other ingredients, into cocktail shaker. Add ice and shake well. Strain into highball glass filled with fresh ice. Garnish with rosemary sprig and cranberries.



COURTESY TROY GILCHRIST/ BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Learn about LinkedIn and let the world wide web work for you

Networking's network. Another acquaintance has added you on LinkedIn, but you're still not sure what the whole site is about. Here's a crash course on this computer-based career consultant

CLARE TATTERSALL
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LinkedIn is a great tool for researching prospective careers, building your network and reaching out and connecting with people

This should be an entirely professional social media tool, so keep your personal life out of it — it should function as an online resumé and professional networking tool.

It takes some time and effort to create a great LinkedIn account, but if you do it right, it will certainly help you in connecting with the right people and getting a job.

Here are some tips on how to set up an effective LinkedIn profile:

Getting started

Get a professional headshot done. You want to be dressed in business attire and looking sharp. This is about creating a positive and professional image — think about what message your photo sends about you and whether it fits with your career goals.

Take time to write a clear, concise and compelling summary statement. Tailor it to what your target audience will be interested in knowing about you. Be sure to include key words, industry-specific lingo and job-specific skills so that it is easily searchable.

Create an effective and informative professional headline.

This helps people to understand, in just a few words, who you are and what your skills are.



Commit to regularly updating and improving your LinkedIn profile: this way you won't neglect it. ISTOCK

Filling it in

Join groups that relate to your career interests and industries. Being involved in groups can help you to connect with people that you might not otherwise interact with.

Add industry relevant skills to your profile. Once you have added these skills, start endorsing others for the skills that they possess. This will, in turn, result in others endorsing you.

Similar to endorsements, the process of getting recommendations is founded in reciprocity.

If you want others to write a recommendation for you, first write a recommendation for them. Take time to write serious and thoughtful recommendations, as they are also a reflection of you.

When you write a recommendation for someone else, they are then prompted to return the favour and write one for you.

Endorsements and recommendations add to your credibility.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Fine-tuning

- Customize your profile URL — go to your profile, click on Edit, click on Manage Public Profile Settings, on the right hand side of that page, click on Customize your public profile URL. This allows you to create a shorter URL that looks better and more professional on contact cards and resumes.
- Carefully proofread your entire profile. Then, have at least one or two other people look over your profile; ask them to give you feedback on whether it is clear and accurate.

CONSUMERS COVET CARDS



With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the Retail Gift Card Association (RGCA) recently released the results of the Holiday Gift Card Trend Tracker Survey, which examines how consumers plan to give and receive gift cards from retail locations this holiday season. The results, based on responses from nearly 3,000 consumers, reveal ways that retailers can best capitalize on consumer's continued satisfaction with the products.

According to the survey, 74 per cent of respondents plan to give one or more gift cards this holiday season, and nearly 30 per cent surveyed noted they planned on giving five or more gift cards.

Overall, the number of gift cards consumers plan to purchase as gifts this year increased by 71 per cent, according to survey results.

"There is no longer a question that retail gift cards are the most coveted gift to give and get during the holidays, but consumers are being more deliberate about which cards they purchase, with 73 per cent spending less on holiday spending than they did last year," says Jennifer Tramontana, spokesperson for the Retail Gift Card Association. "This survey shows ways that retailers can compete for savvy consumer dollars by adding holiday promotions and offering online and mobile gift card options such as e-gift codes."

Additional insights from the survey include:

• Gift cards drive store traffic — 78 per cent of consumers plan to spend their cards at the retailer's brick and mortar location.

• Restaurants and department stores will benefit most from gift card promotion this holiday — consumers are most likely to give cards from these types of retailers (57 per cent plan on giving a restaurant gift card this year), and they most want to receive cards from these businesses as well (60 per cent hope for a department store gift card).

• Convenience and practicality drive the decision to give gift cards — 79 per cent of consumers give gift cards because they know the recipient can purchase what they want, and 70 per cent give them for convenience.

• Consumers are embracing more online and mobile options — 56 per cent planned to stay home and shop on Cyber Monday, and 83 per cent like the option to send physical gift cards or e-codes.

• Promotions drive gift cards sales — 17 per cent of consumers wait for a promotion before buying a gift card, and 23 per cent almost always look for promotions at competing retailers before deciding where to buy a gift card.

– Metro News Services



CONTRIBUTED

THE STORE FOR ACTIVE LIVING ENTHUSIASTS

TAKE IT OUTSIDE

For people who like to be active, play outside or dress casual chic, Take it Outside has the highly functional and fashionable products needed so people can enjoy being active and look great while doing so.

"People love the variety," says owner Sue Stanfield, adding that the products are perfect for people doing activities such as running, hiking, yoga, shopping and travelling.

The retailer carries internationally-recognized brands such as Canada Goose, Lole, Kühl, FIG, Arc'teryx, Icebreaker, and Marmot.

Take it Outside places an emphasis on carrying Canadian-made products, including products by Stanfield's, a Canadian icon whose products are made in Truro.

Besides outerwear, Take it Outside carries base layers, footwear and accessories. Stanfield says this product mix is one of the things that draws people to Take it Outside.

"Our products will keep you warm, keep you dry and are lightweight and fashionable," she says.

The locally-owned and independent business is located in the North Village section of Dartmouth Crossing, between Pro Hockey Life and Roots. It also has a location in Truro.

With its active social media presence, people should check out the business's Facebook page to find out about special promotions and events happening in store.

CLEAN CANVAS IS AN INDUSTRY LEADER

Having things such as tattoos, spider veins, sunspots, birthmarks and port-wine stains removed are very personal experiences and ones that take time. For these reasons, it's crucial to have the services performed by a trained professional in a comforting environment.

At Clean Canvas Tattoo Removal, owner/operator Marina Munroe is a fully certified laser technician and has been trained in multiple laser technologies, including radio frequency and medical-grade lasers. With a strong bedside manner, Munroe provides a sympathetic touch to the service she provides.

Munroe uses the newest Yag Q-Switch on the market to perform her tattoo removal treatments, making the treatment as quick and efficient as possible. Most tattoos only take a few minutes to treat and then the treated area is left to heal. The tattoo also fades for eight weeks, after which time the client's tissue is ready for another session. With each treatment, the client can expect a 10 to 35 per cent fade of their tattoo.

Located at the Rockingham Ridge Plaza in Clayton Park, the business boasts an A-plus certification with the Better Business Bureau, so people can rest assured they are getting treatment from an industry leader.

Clean Canvas has a special on gift cards until Dec. 23. Customers who purchase a $100 gift card will receive a bonus $25 gift card.

To learn more about Clean Canvas, visit cctattooremoval.com.



CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED

SUPPORT LOCALLY-OWNED MARYANN'S GIFTS

Maryann Ritcey, owner of Maryann's Gifts, says many of her shoppers enjoy purchasing gift cards because they know the recipient will be able to choose exactly what they want. There is no worrying about buying them something they already own or don't need.

"You're giving a thoughtful gift that's going to be used and appreciated, not wasted or re-gifted," Ritcey says. "People can use their gift card to buy something new for their home, or use it to expand on one of the lines they've already started.

"Sometimes it can be hard to buy home decor items for someone else if you're not sure of their taste."

Located at 1106 Cole Harbour Rd. in Dartmouth, Maryann's Gifts celebrated 20 years in business in October. The store carries everything from home decor and primitive country pieces to jewelry, and has more than 5,000 square feet of gift possibilities.

Ritcey says buying one of her gift cards means supporting a locally-owned family business, which is especially important during the holiday season.

One of its best sellers is locally-designed Kameleon jewelry — rings, earrings, pendants, bracelets, and pins that have interchangeable JewelPops, allowing the wearer to create different looks.

"If you know they wear Kameleon but don't know which JewelPops they have, then you can give them a gift card to choose a few new ones," Ritcey says.





POPULAR PROMOTION

GIVE A LITTLE MORE WITH THE HEAD SHOPPE



CONTRIBUTED

When the Head Shoppe adds an extra incentive to gift card purchases, Nicole Castilloux says the staff prepare themselves for a busy couple of days.

"We do this promotion every year and it's always very popular with our customers," says Castilloux, marketing and promotions co-ordinator for The Head Shoppe.

On Thursday and Friday (Dec. 14-15), Head Shoppe customers receive an extra 15 per cent when they purchase gift cards valued at $50 or more. Purchasing a $50 gift card would turn it into a $57.50 card, a $75 gift card would be worth $86.25, and a $100 gift card would give the recipient $115 to spend.

The gift cards can be used to purchase hair, skin care, esthetic services, as well as any retail items, like styling products by Redken, Dermalogica, and OPI, and hair appliances like flat irons and curling irons.

Cards can be purchased for any denomination, and can be used at any of the Head Shoppe's 18 locations across Atlantic Canada after Jan. 1.

"People buy them for themselves, and husbands buy them for their wives, but they're also great for gift giving because you get to give a little more," Castilloux says.

"The beauty of giving a gift card is that you're letting people choose what they really want."

RESTORE YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY AT TOTAL BODY LASER CLINIC



CONTRIBUTED

Total Body Laser Clinic is boasting a new piece of technology for body and facial sculpting that has people talking. It's called TriPollar and it uses the world's most advanced radio frequency technology.

"My clients are very pleased with the results," says Kelly Chambers, a licensed and certified laser technician. "After one treatment you can see and feel the difference."

Because the treatment is non-invasive, there aren't signs somebody has had a treatment, such as redness. As a result, Chambers says people are getting treatments done over their lunch hours and returning to their jobs immediately afterwards.

For body sculpting, TriPollar is used for skin tightening, cellulite reduction, circumference reduction, improving stretch marks and localized fat reduction. For facial sculpting, Tripollar is used for skin tightening, wrinkle and fine-line reduction.

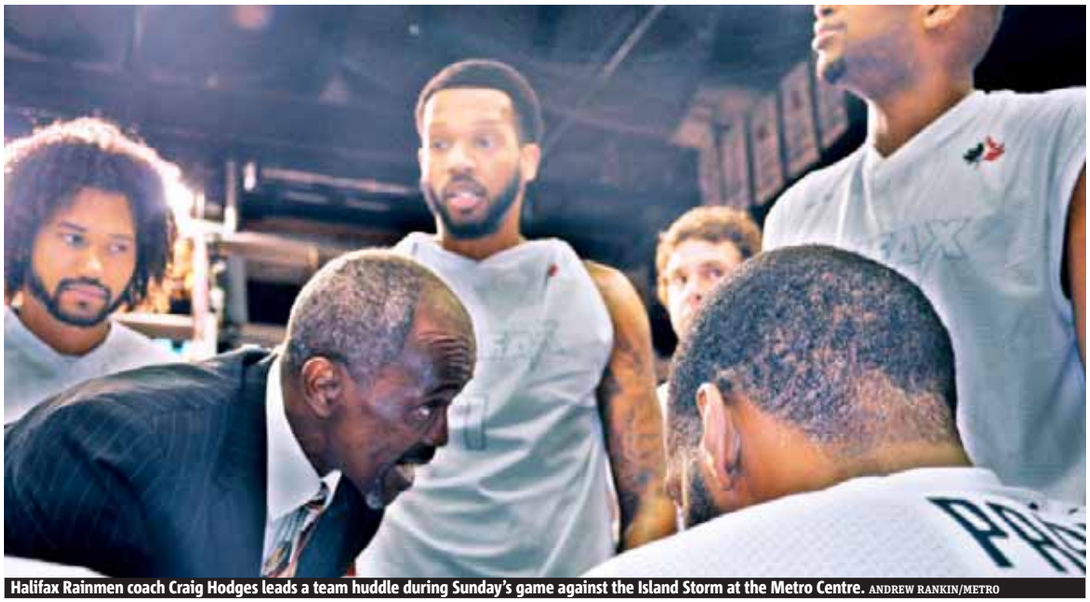
TriPollar is suitable for all skin types, colours and even the most sensitive skin. This patented, clinically-proven technology gives long-lasting results and feels like a hot stone massage.

Total Body is the first clinic east of Montreal to have TriPollar equipment and is the only clinic in Nova Scotia with the technology.

Total Body has a special offer on gift cards at the moment. Until Jan. 1, 2014, customers who purchase a $100 gift card will receive a bonus $25 gift card.







Halifax Rainmen coach Craig Hodges leads a team huddle during Sunday's game against the Island Storm at the Metro Centre. ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Hodges sees growing pains with Rainmen

NBL Canada. Interim coach says team still has a lot to learn before it can become a contender



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

On the surface, Craig Hodges appears to be the antithesis of Chris Terrell.

Terrell, the animated, now-departed former Halifax Rainmen head coach, spent games pacing the sidelines, shouting directives at his players; his replacement Hodges sat calmly, showing little emotion through most of Sunday's loss against the Island Storm.

Hodges is 0-2 since taking over the 0-9 Rainmen last week. But he took Sunday's almost inconceivable 108-107 home loss to the Island Storm in stride.

The former NBAer knows a thing or two about winning, having captured two NBA titles with the Michael Jordan-era Chicago Bulls, plus a trio of league three-point competitions.

"Winning is a learned experience," he said after Sunday's loss. "When you've been given a group of people, players, it's going to take you time to figure out what it takes.

Clouds parting?

"Right now we're in the process of learning who we are as an identity, as a team, and learning each other's nuances. I look forward to the next couple weeks."

Rainmen interim head coach Craig Hodges

"There's no silver bullet or a magic drink that gives you success, it's a matter of learning how to win and I think the strides that we have taken to some degree are proving that point. You might get close, you might get blown out and you might have a quarter where you look good as a team. Tonight we were right there right until the end."

Hodges and the Rainmen got a little bit of a boost on Tuesday, adding some depth to their lineup with the signings of guards Dami Sapara, formerly of North Carolina Central, and Olumuyiwa Famutimi of the University of Arkansas.

The Rainmen open a three-game home stand against the Windsor Express on Thursday.

Hodges admits it will be a true test for his struggling team.

Winter Universiade

MacNeil opens with four tallies against Japan

Former Cape Breton Screaming Eagles forward Nick MacNeil scored four goals to help lead the Canadian men's hockey team to a dominating 12-1 victory over Japan in its Winter Universiade opener on Tuesday night in Trentino, Italy.

The red and white squad, comprised entirely of all-stars from the Atlantic University Sport conference, including the Saint Mary's Huskies' Anthony Peters, Michael D'Orazio, Lucas Bloodoff and Cory Tanaka and the Dalhousie Tigers' Pierre Vandall.

Tanaka had a pair of goals while Bloodoff and Vandall added singles. The Canucks outshot Japan 58-16. Canada takes on Ukraine on Friday. **METRO**

NCAA basketball

Gators withstand Wiggins' best

This is how Kansas coach Bill Self wants Andrew Wiggins to play every night.

He knows Wiggins is capable of it.

Toronto's Wiggins had 26 points and 11 rebounds, the only Kansas player in double figures, as the 13th-ranked Jayhawks lost 67-61 to No. 19 Florida. It was the second straight road loss for Kansas (6-3), but a potential building block for Wiggins.

"What Andrew did, he competed," Self said. "He made shots. I'm glad he made them and all that, but that's not what I'm glad he did. I thought he was more aggressive and competed more." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Drouin expected to be ready for Sweden



Jonathan Drouin is expected to play for Team Canada at the world juniors in Sweden. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Team Canada brass is expecting Jonathan Drouin to be ready for the world junior championships.

When exactly? Well that's another matter.

"I expect that Jonathan at some point, whether that's in Toronto or Europe, will play," said senior director of hockey operations and national teams Scott Salmond. "I expect that he'll be prepared and ready to go by the tournament, for sure. But that's a pretty broad statement without having him evaluated."

Drouin's status for the tournament, which starts on Boxing Day in Sweden, was thrown into question after the Halifax Mooseheads' leading scorer was diagnosed with a mild concussion after absorbing a hard hit from behind by the Quebec Remparts' Adam Erne on Friday. Drouin missed Sunday's game against the Charlottetown Islanders, and his status was day-to-day.

But Drouin is expected to be in Toronto for the opening of Team Canada's training camp on Thursday, where he will be evaluated by a team doctor.

"The indications are is that he's going to be okay," said Salmond. "We'll all be relieved when we see Jonathan on the ice in a Team Canada jersey."

The league decided against giving a suspension to Erne, which infuriated Mooseheads GM Cam Russell.

Salmond wouldn't comment on the league's ruling, saying QMJHL and CHL matters are out of his jurisdiction.

He said he's relieved that Drouin is on the path of recovery. **ANDREW RANKIN/METRO**

Brendan Shanahan. Board of governors give VP of player safety thumbs up

The NHL's board of governors thinks Brendan Shanahan is doing a bang-up job of enforcing player safety.

That was the sense commissioner Gary Bettman got from the room on the second and final day of meetings that included updates on player safety, the upcoming Sochi Olympics, hockey operations and the ongoing relationship with the Players' Association.

In light of Saturday night's game between the Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Penguins, discipline and on-ice conduct are in the public spotlight. It was just one part of the meeting but general managers expressed satisfaction over the state of discipline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doing the time

18

The number of suspensions that have cost players at least one regular-season game this year.

12% increase

NHL salary cap to rise to $71M

NHL revenues have increased so much that next year's salary cap is expected to be roughly $71 million US, close to a 12 per cent increase from this season ($64.3 million).

That's an estimate, but it's the figure commissioner Gary Bettman delivered to the board of governors Monday.

The cap floor this season is $44 million, and it's expected to be about $52 or $53 million next year. According to CapGeek, the only team with a cap number of less than $52 million is the Florida Panthers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Habs can't keep up with Jones in rout by Kings



Kings goalie Martin Jones makes one of his 30 saves against the Canadiens on Tuesday in Montreal. The Kings won 6-0. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal mugging. Rookie goalie earns second straight shutout

Rookie Martin Jones made 30 saves for his second shutout in as many games, and six Los Angeles players found the back of the net in the Kings' 6-0 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday.

Jordan Nolan, Anze Kopitar, Alec Martinez, Tyler Toffoli, Jake Muzzin and Justin Williams scored for the Kings (20-7-4), who won their fourth straight.

Carey Price made 12 saves on 16 shots for the Canadiens (19-10-3) before being replaced by Peter Budaj, who stopped 12 of 14 shots.

With the loss, Montreal snapped a 10-game point streak dating back to Nov. 16 when they were beaten 1-0 by the New York Rangers.

The Canadiens came out of the gate with intense pressure, but couldn't find an answer to Jones' stellar play. Jones made seven saves on an early Habs power play, and remained lights out for the rest of the night.

L.A. rewarded Jones' early effort at 7:03 of the first period when Nolan beat Price to his left for his fourth of the year.

Kopitar added to the lead with only 13 seconds remaining in the period, catching Price out of position after winning the faceoff to his right.

The Kings opened the second right where they left off with Martinez scoring and the rout was on. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Tuesday

Kings	Canadiens
6	0

Sochi Olympics

Russia plans to set up designated protest zones

IOC president Thomas Bach said Russia will set up public protest zones in Sochi during the Winter Olympics, a move unlikely to defuse criticism of the country's human rights record and a recent law banning gay "propaganda."

With the opening ceremony less than two months away, Bach said Sochi organizers notified him of the decision during their report to the International Olympic Committee executive board on Tuesday.

Bach, chairing his first board meeting since being elected president in September, said the Russians would establish specially designated zones for "people who want to express their opinion or want to demonstrate for or against something."

Bach said he didn't have any details on where the protest zones would be located or how they would be managed during the games, which run from Feb. 7-23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Rangers officially acquire ex-Jays catcher

Catcher J.P. Arencibia and the Texas Rangers have finalized a $1.8-million, one-year contract.

Arencibia hit .194 with 21 homers, 18 doubles and 55 RBIs in a career-high 138 games this year for Toronto. The Blue Jays didn't offer him a contract by the Dec. 2 deadline and allowed him to become a free agent.

Arencibia has a .212 career average with 64 homers and 193 RBIs in four big-league seasons. He turns 28 next month and figures to be a backup to Geovany Soto.

The agreement was announced Tuesday.

Arencibia is fourth among catchers in home runs over the past three seasons with 62.



Catcher J.P. Arencibia signed with the Rangers on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Two of Arencibia's seven multi-homer games have come in Arlington. The other five were in Toronto. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other transactions on Tuesday

- A three-team trade was made involving the Arizona Diamondbacks, Los Angeles Angels and Chicago White Sox. Outfielder-first baseman Mark Trumbo will go from L.A. to Arizona, pitcher Hector Santiago moves from Chicago to L.A., outfielder Adam Eaton leaves Arizona for Chicago, and left-hander Tyler Skaggs goes from Arizona to L.A.
- The Oakland Athletics dealt left-hander Brett Anderson to the Colorado Rockies for lefty Drew Pomeranz and minor-league pitcher Chris Jensen.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	30	20	8	2	84	61	42
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	31	16	12	3	86	87	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	31	13	13	5	71	86	31
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Philadelphia	30	13	14	3	68	78	29
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
NY Islanders	31	8	18	5	77	109	21

Tuesday's results
Los Angeles 6 Montreal 0
Washington 6 Tampa Bay 5 (SO)
Buffalo 2 Ottawa 1 (SO)
Columbus 5 New Jersey 4
Nashville 4 NY Rangers 1
Florida 3 Detroit 2 (SO)
St. Louis 2 Winnipeg 1
Chicago 6 Dallas 2
Phoenix 3 Colorado 1
Boston at Calgary
Carolina at Edmonton
NY Islanders at San Jose

Monday's results
Ottawa 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
Pittsburgh 2 Columbus 1
Anaheim 5 NY Islanders 2
Vancouver 2 Carolina 0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	33	22	6	5	122	91	49
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	32	18	9	5	77	75	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	33	21	7	5	106	86	47
Los Angeles	31	20	7	4	85	62	44
San Jose	30	19	6	5	101	75	43
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	29	11	14	4	78	98	26
Edmonton	31	10	18	3	84	105	23

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Los Angeles at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
Montreal at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Columbus at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Calgary, 9 p.m.
NY Islanders at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Boston at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Getzlaf, Ana	16	21	37
Kane, Chi	16	21	37
Perry, Ana	20	15	35
Tavares, NYI	12	22	34
Steen, StL	20	12	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Ovechkin, Wash	22	9	31
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Kessel, Tor	16	13	29
Couture, SJ	10	19	29
Karlsson, Ott	8	21	29
H. Sedin, Vcr	8	21	29
Ryan, Ott	14	14	28
Marleau, SJ	13	15	28
D. Sedin, Vcr	10	18	28
Seguin, Dal	15	12	27

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	13	.435	9½
Charlotte	10	11	.476	8½
Detroit	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Chicago	8	11	.421	9½
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10½
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11½
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	12
Orlando	6	15	.286	12½
New York	5	15	.250	13
Milwaukee	5	16	.238	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	16	4	.800	1
d-San Antonio	16	4	.800	1
d-L.A. Clippers	14	8	.636	4
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4½
Dallas	13	9	.591	5
Phoenix	11	9	.550	6
Golden State	12	10	.545	6
Memphis	10	10	.500	7
L.A. Lakers	10	10	.500	7
Minnesota	10	11	.476	7½
New Orleans	9	10	.474	7½
Sacramento	6	13	.316	10½
Utah	4	19	.174	14½

d – division leader

Tuesday's results
San Antonio 116 Toronto 103
Cleveland 109 New York 94
Indiana 90 Miami 84
Minnesota 121 Detroit 94
Oklahoma City 101 Atlanta 92
Brooklyn 104 Boston 96
Milwaukee 78 Chicago 74
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

DRIVE 5

AJAC's historical missteps?

Former winners. Let's go back in time and see the good and the not-so-good victors



THE 2010 VW GOLF GTI, ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The trouble with car-of-the-year awards is that they recognize fetching lines, nifty engineering and value for money, but fail to take into account the one factor shoppers say is paramount to their decision: reliability.

As AJAC names its finalists for the 2014 Canadian car and utility vehicle of the year, we thought it would be instructive to look back at previous winners, in five-year increments, to see how they fared in the real world. Do our esteemed jurists end up picking the best vehicles for hard-working Canadians? You be the judge.

2010: VW Golf GTI

Volkswagen bookends our retrospective with two disparate generations of the worldly, front-drive Golf. The sixth-gen Golf, introduced in 2010, was a masterful reworking of the Mk5 car that landed here in 2006. The body was finessed with an angle grinder to make it more aerodynamic, while the cabin furnishings were raised to near-Audi standards. The GTI inherited Golf's three- and five-door hatch configurations, but with some tuned suspension bits and wicked alloy wheels shod with low-profile rubber. Owners of pre-2010 GTIs did report several minor problems, but VW must have ironed out the bugs; the newest generation appears problem free.

2005: Ford Mustang

To mark the 40th anniversary of Lee Iacocca's groundbreaking Mustang, Ford put stylist J Mays on the job to cast the new coupe and convertible as "retro-future" iterations of the original. By adopting the rear-drive chassis of the Lincoln LS — but with a solid rear axle to keep costs down — the car gained a stiff platform to promote adept handling. Assembled at the Ford-Mazda plant in Michigan, the Mustang benefited from Japanese-quality controls. Still, there were some unsettling problems revealed by owners, including faulty manual transmissions and rear differentials, fuelling issues, faulty emergency brakes, short-lived batteries, bad V8 throttle-position sensors and interior rattles.



The 2005 Ford Mustang had looks and power but also some faults.

2000: Ford Focus

With its avant-garde styling and premium materials, the Ford Focus aspired to be more than just an econobox. And it came in lots of flavours: a four-door sedan, five-door wagon, three-door hatchback and, later, a five-door hatch. Every model was a ball to drive, thanks to its tight platform and sophisticated suspension geometry. The Focus got off to a rocky start in terms of reliability. Owners' mailboxes filled up with recall notices, and the cars exhibited mechanical glitches such as fast-wearing brakes, wheel-bearing failures, broken transmissions and ignition switches, faulty air conditioners, bad fuel pumps and numerous electrical problems.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This year's 12 finalists

- **Small Car (under $21k):** Mazda 3
- **Small Car (over $21k):** Mazda 3 Sport
- **Family Car (under $30k):** Kia Soul
- **Family Car (over $30k):** Mazda 6
- **Luxury Car (under $50k):** Lexus IS 350 RWD
- **Luxury Car (over $50k):** Infiniti Q50 Hybrid
- **Sports/Performance ($50k+):** Chevrolet Corvette Stingray
- **Prestige Car (over $75k):** Mercedes-Benz S Class
- **SUV/CUV (under $35k):** Jeep Cherokee
- **SUV/CUV ($35k to $60k):** Kia Sorento
- **SUV/CUV ($60k+):** Acura MDX
- **Pickup:** GMC Sierra

The process of election

- **AJAC finalists and runners up.** Mazda, Kia and General Motors lead the way in the battle to be named Canada's 2014 car or truck of the year. The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada announced its 12 finalists for the awards last week, including three Mazda vehicles, and two each from Kia and GM. In October, a group of 80 AJAC journalists test drove 174 new vehicles during a week-long series of trials in Niagara Falls. AJAC's annual Test Fest evaluates all new or redesigned vehicles in each of 12 categories on the same day, over the same route, including a high-speed test circuit and/or a simulated off-road course or cottage road, depending on the type of vehicle. The journalists ranked a wide range of attributes, including design, space, quality, performance, safety, economy and value. Transport Canada fuel consumption figures were also factored in, as was the vehicles' price. Those 12 finalists will now compete to be named AJAC's Car of the Year or Utility Vehicle of the Year, which will be announced on Feb. 13.





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Mustang getting better with age

Then and now. With the impressive 2015 version of the 'All American' icon just unveiled it seemed appropriate to see how far the model has come



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The Ford Mustang is an iconic American consumer product, not unlike the Fender Telecaster guitar, Campbell's Soup, or the Colt 45 handgun (or if you prefer, Colt 45 malt liquor).

Mustang's all-new and sixth-generation version, the 2015 model, was just revealed last week, in a simultaneous six-city debut extravaganza.

The world has changed a lot since 1964, when the Mustang first debuted, but the original and archetypical "Pony Car" is still relevant and is still lusted after. Let's take a quick "then and now" look, to appreciate the transformation of this American icon ...

Target audience

Back then, the Mustang was targeted successfully at young people. Today, the average age of Mustang buyers is over 50. Back then, and right up until the 2014 model, the Mustang was only sold officially in North America. Ford says it will sell the 2015 model globally. As the most iconic, visible, and all-American-styled vehicle in its portfolio, it will help Ford announce its intentions in new markets as it works to raise its global presence.



The 2015 Mustang really does please the eye. BOTH PHOTOS FORD

Sales targets

Back then, Mustang was a big-volume player, by any standard. In 1966, almost 450,000 units were sold in North America. Now, with annual North American sales at about 85,000, it's no longer a mainstream product. But Ford really wants Mustang to outsell Camaro, something it doesn't do now in the U.S. Curiously, Mustang easily outsells Camaro in Canada.

Styling

Back then, Mustang styling was somewhat revolutionary. Now it's retro-inspired with modern design elements. Ford hopes the new look will appeal to more younger buyers, and to those international buyers. But the styling vibe remains very much "All American."

Technology

Back then, with a focus on younger, less-affluent buyers, Mustang was purposely devoid of lots of expensive technology (except for the obvious and many performance editions). Even up to the latest model, Mustang was famous for retaining an old-world "solid rear axle" suspension. The 2015 model is the first with a fully independent rear suspension. It's also the first in decades to feature a four-cylinder engine option — the all-new 2.3-litre EcoBoost, good for 305 horses and 300 "torques." Those moves, and others, like more use of weight-saving aluminum and the new electronic launch control (a first for Ford), are all about making a better Mustang, and a nod to convincing foreign buyers that Mustang is no longer just an American sports car lump, as in, only fast in a straight line, and too big to be agile. But you really have to like how Ford retained the "analogue" nature of the Mustang. The cabin features lots of analogue-looking instruments and actual mechanical switches that should make actual mechanical noises when you use them.



The all-new 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine.

Price

Back then, Mustang was cheap and cheerful. Ford hasn't released prices yet, but you just know it has too much technology, too much safety and performance, and too many modern accoutrements to ever be that cheap again. But what are you going to do? Go back to 1964?





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S35906	POP	5SPD - 1.4L Multi-air	was $17,590	SALE $13,495* OR $89 b/w**
S35907	POP	AUTO - 1.4L Multi-air	was $18,990	SALE $14,795* OR $98 b/w**
S00761	POP Cabriolet	5SPD - Air, cruise control	was $23,440	SALE $17,245* OR $109 b/w**
S00760	POP Cabriolet	AUTO - Convertible, Air, Cruise	was $24,665	SALE $18,470* OR $118 b/w**
S35904	SPORT	5SPD - Leather, htd seats, alpine audio, satellite	was $24,085	SALE $17,890* OR $115 b/w**
S35903	SPORT	5SPD - Leather, htd seats, alpine audio, satellite	was $24,905	SALE $18,710* OR $110 b/w**

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S69402	LOUNGE	5SPD - Leather, heated seats	was $21,790	SALE $15,595* OR $102 b/w**
S00773	LOUNGE	5SPD - Leather, heated seats	was $22,090	SALE $15,895* OR $104 b/w**
S69187	LOUNGE	AUTO - Leather, heated seats	was $23,290	SALE $17,095* OR $110 b/w**
S01914	LOUNGE Cabriolet	AUTO - Convertible, leather, htd seats, Beats audio	was $27,735	SALE $21,540* OR $135 b/w**
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¤Based on 2013/2014 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). 2014 Dodge Journey 2.4 L with 4-speed automatic – Hwy: 7.7 L/100 km (37 MPG) and City: 11.2 L/100 km (25 MPG). 2013 Dodge Dart AERO – Hwy: 4.8 L/100 km (59 MPG) and City: 7.3 L/100 km (39 MPG). Wise customers read the fine print: ¥, €, •, *, **, ∞, § The Be Your Own Santa Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after December 3, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing excludes freight ($1,595 – $1,695), licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ¥Holiday Bonus Cash of up to $1,500 is available on most new 2013 Dodge Dart, Ram Heavy Duty trucks and FIAT models (excluding the FIAT 500 Pop and Ram Cab & Chassis) and on most new 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and FIAT models, excluding the following: Chrysler 200 LX, Dodge Dart, Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE, Avenger CVP, Viper, Jeep Compass Sport 4x2/4x4, Patriot Sport 4x2/4x4, Cherokee, Ram 1500 Reg Cab trucks, Ram Cab & Chassis, Ram Cargo Van, Ram ProMaster, FIAT 500 Pop, 500C, 500T and Abarth models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. €$10,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2014 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $8,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts and $1,500 in Holiday Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. •$18,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR+XFH) only and includes $8,500 Consumer Cash Discount and $1,500 Holiday Bonus Cash. $18,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22P) only and includes $2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. $15,495 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) only and includes $500 Holiday Bonus Cash. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013/2014 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest begins November 27, 2013 at 9:00:00 a.m. AT and ends February 28, 2014 at 11:59:59 p.m. AT. Contest open to legal residents of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador or New Brunswick who have reached the age of majority at the time of entry. One (1) entry per person. To enter, you must visit any participating Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram retailer during this contest period and purchase/finance/lease any new 2012, 2013 or 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle (excluding SRT Viper models). Three (3) grand prizes available to be won, each consisting of a pair of VIP tickets and trip to watch the 2014 Battle of Ontario in Ottawa on April 12, 2014. Tickets are for April 12 ONLY. Prize includes round trip travel for two and two night's hotel accommodation (if required). Approx. retail value (based on Halifax departure): $5,000 per prize. Mathematical skill-testing question required. For complete contest rules, including no purchase means of entry, go to: www.chrysleroffers.ca/battleofontario/att. §2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. 2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount and $1,500 Holiday Bonus Cash. 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. 2013 Dodge Dart GT with optional 18-inch hyper black wheels shown. Price includes $500 Holiday Bonus Cash. ≠Based on *Automotive News* classification and 2013/2014 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 4x2 and 8-speed transmission. 11.4 L/100 km (25 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) Highway. Based on 2013 EnerGuide fuel consumption guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. Ask your retailer for complete EnerGuide information. ^Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. May 2008 to September 2013 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. **Based on 2013 *Ward's* upper small sedan costing under $25,000. ❖Real Deals. Real Time. Use your mobile device to build and price any model. ™Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

Nissan asks the ancient, baffling question: What do women want?

Pathfinder. Automotive giant's employees changed their research methods by immersing themselves in the lives of everyday ladies

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Extra facts

- **10 per cent.** In its research, Nissan found that only 10 per cent of women would consider buying a pink car.
- **Tempting technology.** Many automakers are using infotainment systems that integrate the driver's smartphone and its apps, for ease of use and familiarity.



Nissan used input from female drivers to help them build the new Pathfinder. JIL MCINTOSH

Back in 1955, Dodge introduced a new model called the La Femme. Aimed at women, it was painted in pastel colours, and included a matching raincoat and umbrella.

It failed, proving that it takes more than just a few "feminine touches" to appeal to female buyers. But while automakers generally know what won't work, it's an ongoing challenge to determine what does.

"I think women are misunderstood, and it's because the industry assumes they're disinterested in cars, and find them boring and one-dimensional," says Rachel Nguyen, director of exploratory and advanced product planning for Nissan's head office in Los Angeles. "Instead, they see it in their lives, and if they will enjoy being in it.

"When women walk into a dealership, they don't say, 'Wow, look at that new grille, it's so great compared to the last generation.' They look at the whole thing, and it's more than just the product."

A lot of people are involved in the process. Nguyen works with teams of designers, engineers and planners to identify major trends and customer needs, and also with consumers.

While discussion groups are important, the company also uses immersion research that can include going into people's homes. "We're looking for insights," she says. "It's not typical market research. Immersing in these women's lives is where we gain our insight and tells us what we need to do."

This research has led Nissan to incorporate such things as lighting and materials to improve the vehicle cabin's appearance, along with practicality. On three-row SUVs, the second-row seat slides forward in such a way that if it has a car seat on it, it's still easy to get into the third row. "We said, let's finally get it right where I don't have to move my kid out of the car seat to get my other kid into the back seat," Nguyen says. "We put our foot down, and put a push on engineering for that."

Women also want technology as much as men do, but it needs to be intuitive and easy to use. The company is continually working on designs that take the enormous amount of information available, and present it in formats that are accessible, affordable, and also minimize distraction.

Nguyen actually studied the La Femme's history, which led her to realize that while men and women can have differences in taste, a functional, well-designed vehicle works for everyone. "It's the kiss of death to say that you're designing for women," she says. "If you meet their needs, you will capture the needs of everyone."

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you have not made as much progress as you would have liked on a project, don't worry and certainly don't work even harder. Maybe in future you should set yourself targets you know you will be able to reach.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you need to get something finished, step on the gas. Mars in the work area of your chart will boost your energy but you won't get anywhere worth going unless you're motivated.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If someone asks for your opinion on a personal matter, you will be happy to give it. However, if your sixth sense tells you they won't be happy hearing the truth, maybe you should decline their request.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Feuds and power struggles are best avoided, even if it means you have to go off and be by yourself for a while. Do not, under any circumstances, make the mistake of taking sides.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to get your financial house in order — quickly. Be ruthless with yourself and make sure you know the difference between your needs and your desires. If something is not a necessity, live without it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your authority on the work front has slipped a bit and you need to find ways to remind people why they should do what you tell them. Be persuasive but don't be rude.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
According to the planets this is a good day for personal issues, especially partnerships. In affairs of the heart, you can hardly put a foot wrong at the moment — and a little of what you enjoy will do you good.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may not be able to rely on certain people as much as you have done recently, but you no longer need them. There is a major luck factor working in your life at the moment.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make the most of the Sun in your sign to show the world what you are capable of. It's never too late to make an impression or to move up in the world but now it will be easier than other times.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may not have made as much progress at work as your talents deserve. But, with Mars moving through the career area of your chart, it won't be long before that changes.

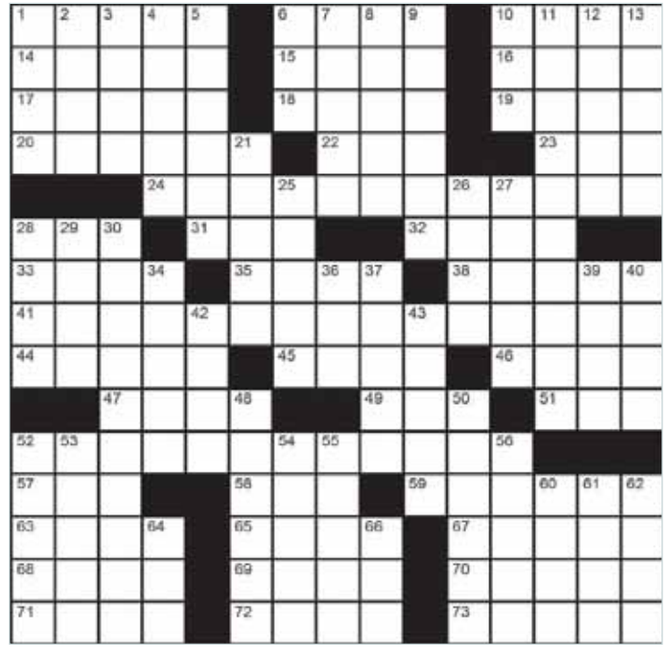
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today, make an effort to read between the lines. What is not being said is likely to be ten times more important than what is being said. Also, watch other people's body language.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be decisive today. Think and act fast and don't worry too much about what the consequences might be. Some people may get annoyed but they need to know you're not the sort to be messed around. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

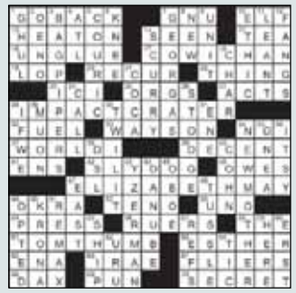
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Fido's warning
6. Color Me __ ('90s boy band)
10. Went too fast
14. Mr. Spock's virtue
15. Wise one
16. Taken-back vehicle
17. Flooded
18. High-hatter
19. Pouches
20. Canada Goose garments
22. As well
23. British running great Sebastian
24. Items worn by Queen Victoria at The Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto: 2 wds.
28. With it
31. New Zealand bird
32. Blinds strip
33. Mr. Redding
35. Fashionably 'ready'
38. Clear
41. John Lennon's handwritten lyrics, etc.: 2 wds.
44. __ socks
45. Hydrocarbon suffixes
46. Hershey's treat
47. Glorify
49. Energy
51. Sketch show, shortly
52. Mount Everest professionals: 2 wds.
57. __ Mahal
58. Li'l loudness
59. Arrogance
63. Songstress Ms. Ali
65. Go __ detail
67. Poppycock
68. Roman emperor
69. Poet Mr. Pound
70. Fragrant oil from flowers
71. Likewise
72. Marinate
73. Antelope variety

Down
1. "__ Shot" (1977)
2. "And __ _ word from our sponsor..."
3. Seaweed product
4. Hazards
5. "To life!" in "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971)
6. Microsoft mogul ...his initials-sharers
7. Some relatives
8. Cake-lover's spotting-cake reaction
9. Claude __, Montreal-born singer/songwriter
10. Grads-to-be, briefly
11. They might be held to negotiate a treaty: 2 wds.
12. Edmonton high-rise office building, __ Tower
13. Prescription amounts
21. Alpine sight
25. "Instant __!" by John Lennon
26. Non-royal
27. Eiffel Tower's home
28. Lively circle dance
29. "Lay __ __ the Line" by Triumph
30. Food preserving containers: 2 wds.
34. Broadway composer, Matthew __
36. Long time
37. Spectacular coin-collecting fountain in Rome
39. Priory of __, in "The Da Vinci Code"
40. "My Name Is __"
42. "You Raise __" by Josh Groban: 2 wds.
43. Thespian's line to the audience
48. Canadian writer, Robertson __ (b.1913 - d.1995)
50. Canadian actress Ms. Ory
52. Ms. Katic of "Castle" on ABC
53. Ms. McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga, ON since 1978
54. Nickname of Gregory Harrison's character on "Trapper John, M.D."
55. Extreme
56. Chimney's characteristic
60. Smidgen
61. Ice floes animal
62. "__ Breckinridge" (1970)
64. Cow's communication
66. Furniture wood

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4				9	1	3	
		8					5	2
				5		7		9
			3	6				5
	1						6	
2				8	7			
3		4		7				
1	6					4		
	7	9	4				8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	4	7	6	3	5	1	9
1	3	5	2	9	4	6	7	8
6	9	7	5	8	1	3	2	4
2	7	1	3	5	8	4	9	6
9	5	3	6	4	7	1	8	2
4	8	6	9	1	2	7	3	5
3	1	8	4	2	6	9	5	7
7	6	9	8	3	5	2	4	1
5	4	2	1	7	9	8	6	3

Today
-5°/-13°
Variable

Thursday
-5°/-13°
Variable

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